

DISTANCE LEARNING PROVIDES:

- Opportunities for students
- Student projects
- Enrichment to Curriculum
- An alternative to Field Trips

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Read Around the Planet Project

Read Around the Planet

RAP Focuses on Reading standards. Classes all over the United States and a few international classes connect using video conference technology to share presentations revolving around reading. Students created many interesting presentations such as Reader's Theatre's, student written poems and short stories, Dr. Seuss stories, and puppet plays. The unique part of Read Around the Planet is the opportunity the students have at the end of their presentations to share with their partner about their community, school, and individual life in their area of the United States. Students learn about schools that greatly contrast their own school, or they are amazed at how alike the classes are in states far apart! Favorite topics include: sports, size of school, town population, school cafeteria menu, recreational activities, and hobbies, just to list a few!

Priceless Moments

During the connections, there are so many fun experiences! Students in Belle Plaine, KS explained to a class in Pennsylvania one recreation was going "mudding". The two classes also joked about the Kansas City Chiefs' win this year over the Pittsburgh Steelers. A Wisconsin class wished a Wellington, KS class "good luck" with their state assessment testing. Wisconsin students had just completed their state assessments.

Weather

Several connections had to be rescheduled due to the amount of snow the east received during the RAP weeks. Multiple feet



"Wake Up Wellington"
Morning Show presented to Wisconsin students

of snow made a great conversation piece! Kansas students explained that it does snow in our area, but the majority of the time it melts in a few days. One New York school told how they received snow during Christmas and more keeps adding to it! A popular question from out of state friends was "Have you ever seen a Tornado?" and several referenced Kansas to *The Wizard of Oz*. Kansas students were able to teach them about their state and the popular things associated with Kansas.



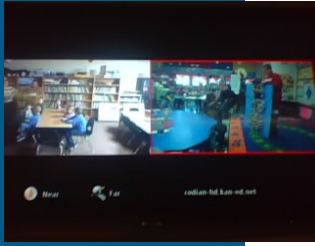
Students in New Jersey listen to KS students facts about animals

Teacher Comments

Each teacher completes an evaluation about their connection. Below are a few things teachers had to say about their connection:

- "Student interest is high and you have great opportunity to complete a project that can include a variety of differentiated components. Students feel ownership in the outcome."
- "My students were able to learn about Dr. Seuss and his life and were able to teach the fifth graders in TX about his life. We also were able to learn about a new book (which now we will read in class) and how different every school can be."
- "I would recommend this to anyone. I have done, I believe four, and every time my kids have enjoyed it, I have enjoyed it and we have all learned something. It is a different way to have your kids learn something new and share it with others. All students can enjoy this activity and be successful at it."
- "As an educator you are always on the look out for new innovative ideas to teach the different subject skills. Watching other class presentations usually gives me some new ideas to use with my students."
- It is a great way to celebrate Read Across America Week and to learn about another part of the United States.

Student Exchange Projects



Students sharing

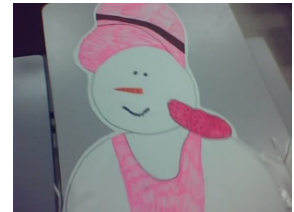
The Exchange Projects are designed for students to collaborate with classes via video conference. Each class designs a project. During October the theme was “Monsters”, then in December the theme was “Snowmen”. Students use common materials found around the classroom to create their own unique project. Then the class practices writing and descriptive skills by writing instructions on how they created their project. Each class is

partnered with another class somewhere in Kansas and exchanges their instructions. The classes then create their partner’s project based on the instructions. Once the projects have been created, the classes will connect over video conference to share their project. This project focuses on Language Arts and Math Standards as well as Presentation Skills.

For the Spring Theme, teachers voted on what topic they liked best. The

New Spring Theme will be “Kites”. Connections for this project will be in late April and early May. Teachers may register until April 2 by contacting their district IDL facilitator.

Snowman created by students



“Each month Connect 2 Texas features a program free of charge from one of their many providers.”

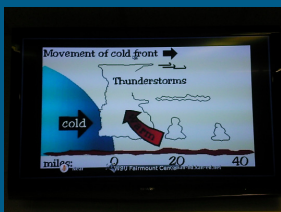
Connect 2 Texas

Connect 2 Texas is a service provided by Education Service Center Region XI in Fort Worth, TX. Their main purpose is to promote video conference programs from Texas providers such as Amon Carter Museum, Cowgirl Hall of Fame and Museum, and Cook Children’s Medical Center to name just a few!

Kansas teachers have taken advantage of many of the programs offered. Each month they feature programs that are offered free of charge from one of their many providers. Students have learned about Cowboys from the Amon Carter Museum, gone behind the scenes of the Nutcracker with the Texas Ballet Theater and Bass Performance Hall,

and reviewed war diaries and photographs from Pearl Harbor with the National Archives at Fort Worth. There are many other programs available through this wonderful resource!

To visit their site: www.connect2texas.net



WSU presentation Severe Weather



WSU Fairmount Center

The WSU Fairmount Center for Science & Mathematics provide free programs for Kansas schools. Greg Novacek (Director) and Amy Strong (Assistant Director) present several different presentations

for grades K-12. Presentations include: Solids Liquids Gases, Fun With Science, The Moon/ Solar System, Electricity & Magnetism, and Severe Weather. WSU offers the programs on selected dates and times each year. Over 1,000 Kansas students so far this year have participated in

these programs through video-conferencing.

To visit their website, go to: <http://webs.wichita.edu/facsmel/>

CILC - Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration

Content Programs

Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration is a nonprofit organization that supports and advances education through videoconferencing. They provide access to quality professional development, student educational content, and consulting and technical services. CILC is a wonderful resource for all educators. Especially with the current economy and many field trips being cut, this gives students the opportunity to “go places” without leaving their classroom. There are

providers all over the United States and other countries that offer videoconference programs. NASA offers programs from each of the space and research locations. Looking for a program about animals? The Indianapolis Zoo, Saint Louis Zoo, Texas State Aquarium, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Mote Marine Laboratories (Florida), and the Buffalo Zoo all offer programs for students. CILC provides a database of providers to easily search for a program to meet your needs. Each program is priced according

to provider. There are some providers that offer their programs free of charge, but for most, the average price is around \$125.00. Compared to the cost of leaving the building for a field trip, teachers are able to find affordable programs to enrich curriculum.

To visit their site, go to: www.cilc.org.



Collaboration Center

Another wonderful resource provided by CILC is the Collaboration Center. A collaboration is a connection between two classes sharing a common interest or project. The Collaboration Center is a list of postings from teachers that are looking for partner classes on a project. For convenience, the postings are searchable by keywords or grade levels. You may also post your own project. Students show pride in presenting to audiences outside of their school. Some of the projects that teachers have posted are:

- PenPals - Writing letters, then connecting over videoconference to meet their Penpals.
- Books/Stories - classes read a common book then connect to discuss, give reports, etc...
- Science projects - classes have a common science project to discuss, analyze data, and give presentations.

To visit the Collaboration Center, go to: www.cilc.org and click on Collaboration Tab.

“...teachers are able to find affordable programs to enrich curriculum.”

The screenshot shows the CILC website homepage. At the top left is the CILC logo and tagline: "Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration". A search bar is labeled "Search Entire Site". On the right, a user is logged in as "Audra" with options to "Go to My CILC.ORG", "Edit Member Profile", "Edit Site Profile", "Premium Service Page", and "Logout". Below the search bar is a navigation menu with "SEARCH A CATEGORY" and links for "Catalog", "Calendar/Events", "Resources", "Newsletters", "Brochures", and "About Us". A central navigation bar features five icons: "Content Provider Programs", "Academic Classes", "Collaborations", "Professional Development Programs", and "Videoconferencing Directories". To the right are buttons for "CILC Services" and "Partner Services". A banner for "TANDBERG See: passion" is displayed with the text "ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCES, EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK. MY CLASSROOM IS THE WORLD." At the bottom, there are social media links and contact information: "Follow Us: Facebook, Twitter, RSS Feeds, Site Map, Privacy Policy, Contact Us, Website Assistance: 866-302-CILC (2452)".

Search for content programs or collaborations easily on CILC website

South Central KS Distance Learning

For questions, or to submit an article please contact:

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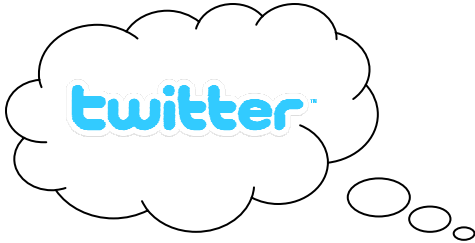
E-mail: audra.may@usd358.com

Watch for upcoming opportunities at:

<http://audraswiki.pbworks.com/>

Follow SckDLN on twitter:

<http://twitter.com/sckDLN>



Distance Learning allows school districts to provide student access to secondary courses that were not previously offered because of low enrollment, lack of qualified instructors or funding.

In addition to the identified priority of serving secondary students, Distance Learning holds promises of curricular enhancements for students in every grade level. You can defy boundaries of the classroom and let the world in the door with Distance Learning. Bring the primary sources-real objects, activities, and scholars from the staff of history and art museums, research and science centers right into the classroom.



Odds and Ends

QOS with Videoconferencing

Some programs through content providers can be fabulous! Yet others may be just okay. After you have participated in a videoconference from a content provider or a collaboration, please fill out the evaluation form. This form outlines the videoconference and leaves room for plenty of comments. Please be honest when you fill this out and provide as much feedback as possible. Whether good or bad, this will allow the network to monitor the quality of the programs that are advertised. They are not shared with anyone unless prior consent is given.

Some providers have their own evaluation form. Please make sure to fill this out as well. They rely on this feedback to better meet the participants needs.

Summer Programs

During the summer, videoconferencing programs are still available for your needs! Many of the providers offer their programs year round. Refer to www.cilc.org (page 3) and some of the websites provided (page 2) to begin your search. You may also contact SckDLN to help you in your search for a program.

May Issue Highlights

- Summer Opportunities
- Professional Development
- Student 2 Student Programs
- Wrapping up 2009-2010

If you would like to submit a topic for a newsletter, please contact Audra May.

