

Focus on Learning

My Upcoming Schedule:

I will be in Park Rapids Tuesday and Wednesday (and Monday by request). Sign up for a time to meet with me.

I will be in Nevis Thursday afternoon and Friday afternoon.

Scheduled Classes:

Thursday, Feb 16, 3:30 in NEVIS: Building a Classroom Webpage Class

Everyone is welcome! Bring the ideas for items you want to include on your page.

Newspapers in Education

NIE has FREE resources to prepare your students for SUCCESS! www.ppnie.com

The MN Department of Education website suggests the following to prepare students for the MCA tests--and NIE has you covered with FREE ON-LINE RESOURCES & NEWSPAPERS!

- Read to students and encourage them to read to you.
- Have students try crossword puzzles and news quizzes in your local newspaper.
- Encourage students to read the daily newspaper and general interest magazines.
- Discuss the events and stories you read about in the newspaper.

ON-LINE: Log into www.ppnie.com and register for our 2016-17 school year. We have all the latest and greatest learning resources, tools, apps and videos in one convenient site for you and your students! Some new resources this year include *KidScoop, ITooch, Grammar Wonderland, Elementary Science and MORE!*

Register your classes and you have free access for all students to the online resources. Try it today!

GlobalEd TV

[GlobalEd TV](#) is a free, inclusive, and comprehensive webinar series which spotlights theories and best practices related to multiculturalism in schools and organizations all over the world. This 5-part series is hosted monthly by the [Global Education Conference Network](#), [the Learning Revolution](#), and [Know My World](#); and the series is designed to inform educators, students, and parents about the role of cultural and global competence in education.

SIGN UP - IT'S FREE!

(Registered guests are not in any way required to attend the live sessions, and will receive links to the recording after each session. Attending live will provide an opportunity to ask questions and participate actively.)

Mon. Feb. 20th - 7pm EST

Cultures in the Classroom: Cultivating Cultural Identity with Students

Connecting to self and understanding who we are is foundational when developing skills for global citizenship and building authentic relationships with others. In this session, global educators will explore initial activities to scaffold meaningful interactions for students based on cultural identity through self-awareness practices. Using Geert Hofstede's Cultural Model diagram, students will produce class culture books that demonstrate their understanding of the key elements of culture.

Google Tip:

Want to learn more about a Google tool but don't have time for a class? Learn on your own with [Google Apps/ GAFE Tutorials for Teachers](#) - a massive site full of tutorials.

<https://sites.google.com/site/teachertechtutorials/googleapps>

Or check out Vicki Davis's list of 100 <http://www.coolcatteacher.com/google-classroom-resources/> Teachers wanting to implement Google Classroom can use these resources to get started, level up their learning, or become a pro at all things Google. (Or call me for a hands-on lesson any time.)

Google Chrome:

Interested in making your Google Chrome browser work better, faster and prettier? There are loads of ways you can personalize Chrome to make your browser fabulous! Vicky Davis has this article that will give you loads of ideas! <http://www.coolcatteacher.com/how-to-make-google-chrome-faster-better-and-prettier/>

And if you like having a great resource on all things Google, Vicki Davis (Cool Cat Teacher) is a great resource for you.

Would you rather take a class to learn this information? Shoot me an email and we'll set one up at your convenience!

Digital Learning Day

Digital Learning Day (DLDay) 2017 is right around the corner. On **February 23, 2017**, teachers and students from around the country will participate in the sixth annual nationwide celebration highlighting great teaching and demonstrating how technology can improve student outcomes. Will you join them?

Interested but not sure what to do? Visit the DLDay [interactive lesson plans page](http://www.digitallearningday.org/interactive-lesson-plans/) for ideas and inspiration. <http://www.digitallearningday.org/interactive-lesson-plans/>

New Features in Nearpod

Nearpod has made some great updates. If you haven't used it before, now is the time to try it.

Nearpod allows you to control the screens of the students in your classroom (on any device!), and share your content with them. They have added a lot of new features to the platform:

- Ell content
- Digital Citizenship
- LMS integrations with Canvas, Schoology and Google Classroom
- Virtual Field Trips
- Sway & 3D objects

Take a look at this great video that will give you more an idea of what they offer:

<https://vimeo.com/200733843>

Here are some great examples of our presentations:

- Ell presentation: <https://share.nearpod.com/vsph/fVqCFy4fNu>
- Mars Virtual Field Trip: <https://share.nearpod.com/vsph/wmd8jkreNu>
- Sway presentation: <https://share.nearpod.com/vsph/Ii8Rg4SoMu>

Park Rapids Tentative Classes

Please note: register ahead of time and I will move the class to your building, if possible. ☺
Remember, if at any time you want training, advice, guidance, or help in your classroom or with your team, you can contact me to set something up at your convenience. Thanks!

Date	Location	Title	Description
Tuesday, Feb 21	High School	Virtual Field Trips	Explore Virtual Reality apps, virtual field trips, and their usefulness in the classroom, during this hands-on workshop. Bring either your Android or Apple phone, and a tablet (iPad or Chromebook). I have a few viewers to try out as well - but bring your own if you have one.
Wednesday, Feb 22	Century Elem Lab	Integrating Technology into Reading/Language Arts	Looking for technology tools for your reading/language arts curriculum? We will look at online tools, apps, and activities for reading, spelling, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, and much more!
Tuesday, Feb 28	Century MS Lab	Integrating Technology into Math/Science	Science and math online tools, apps and activities are abundant. Come to see some of my favorites tools, and the resources to find them.
Wednesday, March 1	High School	Developing Curricular Projects that use Student Created Videos	With all these individual devices students of all ages can make excellent videos. No matter what level you teach, there are tools your students can use to create their own video projects. Come plan one today!
Thursday, March 2	Century MS Lab	SmartBoard: Beyond Beginner	Want to do more with your SmartBoard? We will look at lessons & tools that will increase your use (and your students' use) of the SmartBoard, in some exciting ways!
Monday, March 6	Century ES Lab	Smart Notebook: Creating Lessons	This class will take you through the Smart Notebook tools. We will create our own lessons, discover many new features, and you will have a chance to see how easy it is to personalize your lessons with Smart Notebook.
Tuesday, March 14	High School	Using Google Docs in the Classroom	In this class you will have a chance to go through your Google Drive and organize it, practice sharing Google Docs with others and review the collaborative tools, and see how Google Docs can increase your efficiency in school.
Thursday, March 16	Century MS Lab	Using Google Forms & Spreadsheets	Parent Surveys, Student Quizzes, Data Collection, all can be gathered and organized efficiently with Google Forms. Display survey data, grade quizzes and tests, and so much more. Bring a quiz or survey idea so you can build your own Form.

Nevis Tentative Classes

Please note: register ahead of time so I know someone is attending. ☺ Remember, if at any time you want training, advice, guidance, or help in your classroom or with your team, you can contact me to set something up at your convenience. Thanks!

Park Rapids classes are listed on the next page in case that is convenient for you.

Date	Title	Description
Thursday, Feb 16	Building a Classroom Webpage	Bring your ideas for a classroom webpage, and we will create our own personal webpages using a free, easy tool. Once complete, your website can be linked to the Nevis School website and shared with families/students.
Thursday, Feb 23	Developing Curricular Projects that use Student Created Videos	With all these individual devices students of all ages can make excellent videos. No matter what level you teach, there are tools your students can use to create their own video projects. Come plan one today!
Monday, Feb 27	Finding apps for your Curriculum	Bring your iPad (or other device) and let's look for apps!
Wednesday, March 15	Integrating Technology into Reading/Language Arts	Looking for technology tools for your reading/language arts curriculum? We will look at online tools, apps, and activities for reading, spelling, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, and much more!
Monday, March 20	Virtual Field Trips	Explore Virtual Reality apps, virtual field trips, and their usefulness in the classroom, during this hands-on workshop. Bring either your Android or Apple phone, and a tablet (iPad or Chromebook). I have a few viewers to try out as well - but bring your own if you have one.
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