

Focus on Learning

My Upcoming Schedule:

- Monday, Nov 14: 8am – 4:30pm in Park Rapids
- Tuesday, Nov 15: 8am – 4:30pm in Park Rapids
- Wednesday, Nov 16: 2 – 5:30pm in Nevis (Blogging class at 3:30)
- Thursday, Nov 17: noon – 6:00pm in Park Rapids

Please feel free to contact me at any time via my cell phone (320-241-6150), my home email (lconzemius@gmail.com) or my Park Rapids email (lconzemius@parkrapids.k12.mn.us).

Scheduled Classes:

There is a two-hour technology class scheduled in Nevis on Wednesday, Nov 16, on Blogging. All of you are welcome to attend any of these classes. Please email me to let me know if you'll be joining us.

Thanks!

Google Tip – Incognito Mode:

Google Chrome has a great little feature called Incognito Mode that allows you to open a “clean” window that is not automatically logged into anything. It doesn't save the history or cookies in this mode, and it will remove this login information so it won't appear again. Why would you want to go incognito?

- Logging into a shared computer? Do it in an incognito window and your information will not be saved on that computer. No reason to worry about remembering to log out.
- Student Presentations: If you're having students use your computer to share something, and they have to log in, having each open an incognito window, log in, and present from that will remove all of their information when done.
- Unbiased searching: We all know that Google keeps track of what we're doing, and that data affects the results of our searches. Want to eliminate that bias? Use incognito mode!
- Travel deals: If you're searching multiple sites for the best deals, incognito mode will protect your identity, and hopefully provide better results.

Apple Teacher Program:

Apple has created a new Apple Teacher Program with badging for both iPad and Mac. Many of you have mastered using your iPad effectively in your classroom, and this is a great way to show that you have! Go to: <https://appleteacher.apple.com> and log in with your apple ID. Select any resource to get started. There are study materials if you need them, so take a look at the reviews and pass the corresponding quiz to earn your badge. There is no charge, and you'll have the title of Apple Teacher to add to your name!

Nearpod:

Nearpod has added some amazing virtual field trips to their lessons, which allow you to control the devices in your classroom. This is a powerful tool! I'd love to show you more! Let me know if you're interested in taking a look!

Blogging in the Classroom

What does classroom blogging look like? Each teacher needs to consider this for his/her own classroom. A blog may be main content, shared regularly, designed for parents, students or both. Or a blog may be main content written by the teacher, gradually allowing and encouraging students to comment. As commenting skills grow, students may eventually get to write and publish their own articles in the class blog, or even create individual blogs on their own.

Blogs may be...newsletters, assignments, discussion areas, showcases for student work, plans for upcoming events, reviews of books, curriculum notes, classroom websites, links to online activities, links to student digital work, digital portfolios, science journals, reading logs, or anything you imagine!

Example Blogs:

1. **1A/B @ Willunga Primary** - Kindergarten
2. **Little Champs** - Kindergarten / Grade 1
3. **Ms Cassidy's Classroom blog** - Grade 2 (links to student blogs in sidebar)
4. **Digital Voices** - Grade 3
5. **Miss Jordan's Class @ Barwon Heads Primary School** - Grade 4
6. **Technie Kids** - Grade 5
7. **Blogs-by-the-sea** - Grade 6
8. **Krebs' Class Blogs** - Grade 7/8
9. **English 10** - High school
10. **Mr Ross's Science Class** - High School
11. **NCS Chemistry and Physics** - High School
12. **The Edublogger class blog list** - includes Maths, Science, English, History, LOTE, EFL /ESL, Library, School news blogs and more!
13. **CoolCat Teacher Blog** - for teachers
14. **PRHS Daily Announcements** - staff & students

Classroom blogging creates a gathering place to chat about your activities or ideas outside of class. You can capture snapshots of the school year through various forms of media, including videos, images, podcasts, and more. It allows a free flow and sharing of information that's relevant to students and their interests.

Free sites for building blogs:

- Edublogger: <http://www.theedublogger.com/>
- Google Blogger: <https://www.blogger.com/home>
- PR School Website
- Weebly: <https://education.weebly.com/>
- Kidblog: <http://kidblog.org/home/>

Additional guidelines for classroom blogs: Set up clear rules for the use of your classroom blog! Here are a few suggestions:

- Only identify student work by first names. All comments should have first names only.
- Set your settings to require approval for all comments submitted before they are included on the blog.
- Require appropriate writing in complete sentences. This can be adjusted by grade level readiness.
- Set blog settings to only allow the teacher to have access to post things on the blog.
- Model the type of posting and commenting that you expect from parents and students.

Fall Technology Sessions 2016: PARK RAPIDS SCHOOLS

All sessions held in Century Elementary Computer Lab (unless otherwise noted)

Park Rapids	Topic
Wednesday, Nov 30 3:30 – 5:30 PM	Exploring Educreations Educreations has some great updates that make it the perfect tool for every classroom. We will start with an Educreations how-to and then give you time to plan a few projects within your curriculum and determine how you could use them. Finish off by sharing your ideas with the group and posting them to your own Educreations classroom account. You will also hear about similar apps and the different features that make them unique.
Tuesday, Dec 6 3:30 – 5:30 PM	Formative Assessments with Quizizz & Kahoot Quizizz and Kahoot are two free game-based learning platforms that make it fun to review and learn. Both have their own special features, and work in any subject, in any language, on any device – for all ages! Learn to use them, find teacher-created activities, and learn to create your own. You will have time to create: bring a quiz or review activity.
Thursday, Dec 15 3:30 – 5:30 PM	Virtual Reality with Google Cardboard You've heard about it, now come and try it out! Explore Virtual Reality apps and their usefulness in the classroom during this hands-on workshop. Bring either your Android or Apple phone, the Cardboard viewers will be provided for session use. Walk away with lesson plan ideas, as well as adaptations for use with or without a viewer.