

# Focus on Learning

## My Upcoming Schedule:

Monday, Nov 21: in Park Rapids all day

Tuesday, Nov 22: in Park Rapids most of the day

Monday, Nov 28: in Nevis PM, Educreations class 3:30 – 5:30

Tuesday, Nov 29: in Nevis PM, Blogging class 3:30 – 5:30

Wednesday, Nov 30: in Park Rapids most of the day, Educreations class 3:30 – 5:30

Thursday, Dec 1: Contact me

Friday, Dec 2: 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](mailto:lconzemius@gmail.com)) or my Park Rapids email ([lconzemius@parkrapids.k12.mn.us](mailto:lconzemius@parkrapids.k12.mn.us)). My schedule is flexible and we can always find a time to meet!

## Scheduled Classes:

There is a two-hour technology class scheduled in Nevis on Monday, Nov 28, on Educreations. The Blogging class scheduled in Nevis for last week will be held on Tuesday, Nov 29 in Nevis. In Park Rapids there will be an Educreations class on Wednesday, Nov 30.

Educreations has added many additional features that make this FREE PROGRAM worth revisiting. Students now are able to save drafts and go back to them on ANY DEVICE! There are also enhanced ways to review projects, record each page individually, and share projects with others.

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

Have you ever wished you hadn't just closed that Google Chrome browser tab? Get it back by right-clicking in the tab bar and selecting **Reopen closed tab** from the menu or by clicking **Ctrl+Shift+T**.

## Global Education Conference:

<http://www.globaleducationconference.com/page/2016-conference>

Last week the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Global Education Conference, a free online conference for educators, was held. This four-day conference featured speakers from all over the world, sharing this mission: *to significantly increase opportunities for building education-related connections around the globe while supporting cultural awareness, recognition of diversity, and educational access for all.*

*The conference seeks to present ideas, examples, and projects related to **connecting educators and classrooms** with a strong emphasis on promoting global awareness, fostering **global competency**, and inspiring action towards solving real-world problems. Through this event, it is our hope that attendees will challenge themselves and others to become more active citizens of the world. Let us learn, question, create, and engage in meaningful, authentic opportunities within a global context!*

All sessions are available for viewing at the link above. Take a look at the website and tune in to any sessions that interest you!

### Free Rice: [www.freerice.org](http://www.freerice.org)

One of my favorite fun activities for almost all grade levels this time of year is the Free Rice website. This site allows some drill and practice in a variety of subject areas, with the addition of a real way to donate. For each correct answer, 10 grains of rice are donated through the World Food Program to end hunger. Students can play on any device in these subject areas: humanities, math, language learning, English, chemistry and geography. Challenge your class to a donation today!

### Donor's Choose: [www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org)

Speaking of donations, do you have your classroom Donor's Choose site set up? If not, consider creating one today, and then mark your calendars for **November 29th!** Donor's Choose is teaming up with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to put some extra "giving" in **#GivingTuesday** for 100 lucky donors and teachers. This global celebration of giving is already one of the biggest days of the year for donations on their site. This fall they're adding a special twist to inspire even more people to support teachers and students.

See the Donor's Choose site for complete details, but here's the idea: all day on November 29th, every time donors support a classroom on the site, they'll be entered to receive one of fifty **\$5,000 DonorsChoose.org gift cards** to support classroom projects, backed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. But that's not all; the teachers that donors support will also be entered in a separate drawing to receive one of fifty DonorsChoose.org gift cards. All prizes will be in the form of DonorsChoose.org gift cards, which can be redeemed on the site to fund classroom projects.

### Additional Information: Incognito Mode

A few people have asked me about incognito mode, so here are a few additional notes. To access incognito mode, click the three dots (or three lines) up in the right-hand corner of your browser.



An additional reason to use it? There are times I'm on a public computer but need to check my bank account or other password-protected site. I don't want this information saved, so opening a new incognito window prevents the computer from saving my username and password.

Incognito mode does work on iPads and Chromebooks. If you do not have the option available on your Chromebook, let your tech support person know. (It may be best not to have this mode available on student devices, as there is no way to track their history if they use it.)

### Google Education on Air

Google has a free online education conference scheduled for Saturday, Dec 3. CEU hours are available for all attendees and over 100 sessions are scheduled around the clock! Regardless of the age of the students you teach you'll hear practical tips from other educators that you can apply right away. Topics? Computational thinking, creativity, digital citizenship, student engagement, leadership, and much, much more! Register today at:

<https://goo.gl/egCm0K>

### And one more tip...

Do you use your phone for texting? I hate typing on that little keyboard, and I'm often typing silly mistakes. Most cell phones today have an easier way. Click the little microphone on the bottom of your keyboard and speak your text. You can even say punctuation marks and they will appear!

## Fall Technology Sessions 2016: PARK RAPIDS SCHOOLS

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

Park Rapids	Topic
<b>Wednesday, Nov 30</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Exploring Educreations</b> 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.
<b>Tuesday, Dec 6</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Formative Assessments with Quizizz &amp; Kahoot</b> 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.
<b>Thursday, Dec 15</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Virtual Reality with Google Cardboard</b> 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.

## Fall Technology Sessions 2016: NEVIS SCHOOLS

All sessions held in Business Lab (unless otherwise noted)

Nevis	Topic
<b>Monday, Nov 28</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Exploring Educreations</b> 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.
<b>Tuesday, Nov 29</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>.Blogging 101</b> Looking for a way to engage parents? How about a venue for your students to share their work? Maybe a place to post items for your class? Or even a spot where you can discuss topics and/or share your knowledge? We will create blogs using Blogger (included free in the Google Apps suite), where you'll learn to personalize your blog, create links, embed content and media, and share it with others.
<b>Thursday, Dec 8</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Formative Assessments with Quizizz &amp; Kahoot</b> 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.
<b>Wednesday, Dec 14</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Virtual Reality with Google Cardboard</b> 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.