

# Focus on Learning

## My Upcoming Schedule:

- Tuesday, Oct 18, Park Rapids, 8am - 4:30pm
- Wednesday, Oct 19, Park Rapids, 8am - 4:30pm

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)) .

## Scheduled Classes:

There is a two-hour technology class scheduled in Park Rapids on Thursday, Nov 3, on using Google Forms. I am available most days after school so please let me know if you'd like to meet with me.

## Google Tip:

Very often when I'm signing up for a new account in any website I'm asked if I want to sign up (or log in) using my Google account. If the app is related only to school I will do so using my school account. This makes it easy for me to log into these apps without having to remember additional user names and passwords. But how do I know what I've connected? And how do I delete one that I'm not using any more? This is where your security settings come into play. Go to: <https://myaccount.google.com/security> and scroll down to the list of connected apps. From this list you can view all that are connected - and remove those that you no longer user.

## Links:

I want to share a few resources for free electronic books. These resources will allow you to have students open the same book on devices in your classroom (giving you full sets of books for language arts lessons), and will give you a large number of books to share with families to increase the size of their home libraries. These resources are mostly geared toward elementary students, although some have a selection of books for older students as well. Please note: if you're looking for multiple copies of classics, all of them are available free in any electronic book reading app.

Unite for Literacy: <http://www.uniteforliteracy.com/>

Original non-fiction picture books support beginning readers of all ages. Features include predictable, rhythmic language; images with clear, familiar subjects; and text that ranges from one word up to a few sentences per page. Children everywhere can "see" themselves and imagine their full potential through the images in our books. Pictures that reflect a child's eye view of the real world, in all its rich complexity, encourage rich conversation and a personal connection with books. Our books provide unique audio support to families who speak (or are learning to speak) English, indigenous or foreign languages. Simple audio buttons on each page allow you to hear narrations by native speakers in warm, expressive voices.

International Children's Digital Library: <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>

The ICDL Foundation's goal is to build a collection of books that represents outstanding historical and contemporary books from throughout the world. Ultimately, the Foundation aspires to have every culture and language represented so that every child can know and appreciate the riches of children's literature from the world community.

**Presenting: THE GREAT GLOBAL PROJECT CHALLENGE AND GRANT**

Educators are interested in engaging in project-based learning with other classrooms around the world. Often they embark on time consuming journeys to identify potential deep learning opportunities and project partners. And, it is sometimes difficult for educators who design projects to find active participants. [The Great Global Project Challenge](#) is an initiative designed to collate projects and connect interested collaborators.

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) recently revised [its standards for students](#). ISTE calls for students to become empowered learners, digital citizens, knowledge constructors, innovative designers, computational thinkers, creative communicators, and most notably, global collaborators. The Great Global Project Challenge will help educators provide authentic learning opportunities for students to meet these standards.

Between now and December 1, 2016, global educators will design collaborative projects in which other students and teachers may participate during the course of the 2016-2017 school year. The objective is to create and present as many globally connective projects for students and educators as possible. Let's see how many teachers and students we can engage in globally connected learning opportunities during the course of the next year!

Any teacher, school, nonprofit, or company can participate in this challenge and have their project listed on the Global Collaboration Day website. There will be a grant available to educators from non-profit accredited Pre-K-12 schools, thanks to sponsors [VIF International Education](#) and [the Partnership for 21st Century Learning](#).

**The Great Global Project Challenge Grant**

Grants of \$1,500 (US dollars) will be issued to the the top ten projects that are designed and successfully implemented between now and April 1, 2017. The project design teams for grant-eligible projects must be made up solely of educators employed by non-profit accredited schools and can come from any country. If projects are to be conducted in a language other than English, proposals must be submitted twice. One submission needs to be in the home language; a duplicate needs to be in English. Grant details are available here: <http://www.globalcollaborationday.org/the-great-global-project-challenge-grant.html>

These grants must be used for professional development, classroom equipment, or other resources that will facilitate future globally connected project-based learning. Recipients will be required to submit a plan for use of the grant monies and will be required to present at the online 2017 Global Education Conference.

A committee comprised of leading global educators and organizations will serve on the evaluation team for the Great Global Project Challenge Grant. This group will design an evaluation rubric for scoring these projects.

Curious about global project? Let me know! I'd love to work with you!

**More Reading Resources...**

EPIC! <https://www.getepic.com/educators> Thousands of books are available for teachers to use with their students a no cost! The app works on all devices and is a great resource for reading!

Project Gutenberg [http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page) Over 53,000 books for readers of all ages. This collection holds ebooks for all the classics, providing multiple copies for your students.

## Fall Technology Sessions 2016: PARK RAPIDS SCHOOLS

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

Park Rapids	Topic
<b>Wednesday, Sept 28</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Questions &amp; Work Time</b> Trying out Google Classroom and need some questions answered? Can't remember what you learned last summer in a tech class? Need some time to set up some classroom technology? This class is for you! There will not be a formal presentation, but instead Laurie will be there to answer questions and provide assistance.
<b>Tuesday, Oct 4</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Using Technology to Improve Classroom Behavior</b> Managing a 21st Century Classroom can be a tall order. Find out ways of Improving your overall classroom behaviors by using technology to increase the frequency and consistency of positive feedback, manage behavior interventions, and keep easier records for goal setting.
<b>Monday, Oct 10</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Seesaw Student Portfolios</b> Seesaw allows students and teachers to easily post items into a student portfolio, which can also be shared with families. Children as young as preschool can learn how to scan a QR code to add an image or document, and teachers have full control of everything posted. Seesaw is a powerful tool, yet is easy to use...and free!
<b>Thursday, Nov 3</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Make Data Easier with Google Forms</b> Parent Surveys, Student Quizzes, Data Collection, all can be gathered and organized efficiently with Google Forms. Forms allows you to create surveys and quizzes and will automatically bounce the information to a connected spreadsheet. Display survey data or using add-ons, like flubaroo, you can grade quizzes and tests, making your formative or summative assessment much more efficient. Bring materials to create
<b>Wednesday, Nov 9</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>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.