



## School Website Technology Tab

Each school website has a technology tab in the sidebar menu that directs users to important resources used on a regular basis by staff and students. Shortcuts to login pages such as Moodle, Google and PowerTeacher can be easily accessed in this location. Additionally, please take a moment to routinely visit our Chrome U site for updated apps that are available for K-12 student use, also linked in this tab.

## The Hour of Code



Over 22 million students participated in The Hour of Code during Computer Science Education Week, December 9th - 15th. The Hour of Code is an annual nationwide event sponsored by Code.org. Code.org is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote computer science education. Code.org accomplishes their mission by introducing computer coding lessons to students and emphasizing the importance of learning to code. Computer coding is one of the fastest growing jobs in the world, and it was named by US News as the *Best Job for 2013*.

Since computer coding is a growing field, it aligns with the mission of Union County Public Schools: "Preparing all students to succeed." Union County had student participants from Marvin Ridge Middle, Parkwood Middle and Piedmont High.

All students at Marvin Ridge Middle participated in the event by creating interactive holiday cards using Scratch. Scratch is a free tool that allows users to create and share interactive stories, games and animations. Students watched a brief instructional video on using Scratch and then began coding.

Ms. Lymus and her students from Parkwood Middle School completed lessons in which they had arranged blocks of code in the correct order to give basic commands to characters. Students then practiced skills such as "looping," or repeating code, and creating "if-then" commands to have their characters make choices in their movements.

## IT TIP OF THE MONTH

### Zooming on a webpage

To zoom in on a webpage press the Ctrl key and the + key

To zoom out on a webpage press the Ctrl key and the - key

To zoom back to 100% press the Ctrl key and the 0 key

This zooming tip works on webpages within Google Chrome and Internet Explorer.

The event at Piedmont High School was sponsored by Mrs. Medlin's programming class and the entire school participated. The programming students trained teachers the week prior to the event and then provided assistance on the day of the event.

You can learn more about the events that took place at each school and the hour of code by clicking the links below:

[Marvin Ridge Middle School Hour of Code Google Site](#)

[Parkwood Middle School Hour of Code Article](#)

[Piedmont High School Hour of Code Google Site](#)

[Computer Science Education Week Website](#)

## NCTIES Student Showcases

Union County teachers and students will be sharing great technology enriched lessons occurring in their schools at this year's North Carolina Technology in Education Society (NCTIES) Student Showcase. NCTIES is a network of professional colleagues that promotes instructional technology integration and hosts an annual technology conference in Raleigh. One component of this conference is the Student Showcase. The schools participating and a brief description of their showcases are listed below.

School: Union Elementary

Showcase: Elementary Students Drive to Success with Google Apps

Teacher Involved: Jennifer Williams

Description:

Union Elementary students have been creating and showcasing their work throughout the year using the Google Apps for Education Suite. Creating documents, presentations, drawings, and more, students are integrating technology with Common Core and Essential State Standards to display learned outcomes. Through collaboration, evaluation and reflection with all stakeholders, students are choosing examples that best showcase their final products and publish them within Google Sites.



Marvin Ridge Middle School students writing cover letters as part of their Get a Life project.

School: Marvin Ridge Middle

Showcase Title: Get A Life

Teachers Involved: Lisa Ko and Allison Malady

Description:

The purpose of the Get a Life, Get a Job project is to show students the exact steps needed to research, prepare for and achieve the career of their dreams. Students were provided a Google Site with the project outline, documents, rubrics and helpful tips to get a life of their own!

School: Marvin Ridge Middle

Showcase Title: Not In Our School

Teachers Involved: Stephanie Haring

Description:

Last year, MRMS students presented their bullying websites at the NCTIES Conference and were awarded one of the best presentations by conference attendees. This year, students have built upon this project by creating an anti-bullying marketing campaign. Students promoted the anti-bullying theme through public service announcements, posters, banners, school television announcements and skits. All elements were completed with their choice of technology. These campaigns were used in our their school and given to the area elementary schools to promote anti-bullying among their students. This was a unit that benefited the whole community, not just the students in Mrs. Haring's classes.

## Technology Lesson Spotlight

Fifth grade teachers at Antioch and New Town Elementary schools are embracing the Google environment with help from Rachel Speas, their Instructional Technology Facilitator. The teachers were eager to integrate technology into their 5th grade genetics unit. The lesson planning (i.e. notes, videos, links etc.) was digitally created and stored in Google Drive and was distributed to students in Shared Folders. To demonstrate mastery of unit content, students created Google Presentations as their final products. Students were then assessed on the overall unit using a Google Form in which teachers then used the Flubaroo script for quick and easy grading.

## FETC Conference



At this year's FETC conference UCPS delivered four presentations showcasing technology utilized in our schools. Two presentations were conducted by groups of Instructional Technology Facilitators focusing on tools and strategies that can be implemented by teachers.

- Drive to Differentiation Using Google Apps presented by Gina Chisum, Linda Helbig and Andrea Savill.
- Stick to the Script! Google Scripts for the Classroom presented by Casey Zvanut, Suzanne McMahan and Casey Rimmer.

*Drive to Differentiation Using Google Apps* focused on various ways to differentiate learning with data-driven processes involving students as collaborators in a continual learning process. Time-saving tips were provided to empower teachers to maximize every minute, collaborate with colleagues and differentiate methods for project-based learning.

*Stick to the Script* introduced participants to Google Scripts, which are useful tools that provide users with simple ways to create and collect authentic data from formative assessments and deliver differentiated lessons to students.



### FETC Conference (Continued)

Two other presentations focused on preparing a school system and its network for a large-scale rollout to transform learning. Those presentations are:

- Preparing For Your Chromebook Deployment presented by Tony Burrus, Chief Technology Officer, and Matthew Graham, IT Services Manager.
- From Board Room to Classroom: Increasing Access to Opportunity with a Chromebook presented by Dr. Mary Ellis, UCPS Superintendent, Dr. Mike Webb, Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Technology and Operations, and Scott Jacumin, Lead Instructional Technology Facilitator.

*Preparing For Your Chromebook Deployment* explained the process of selecting, purchasing, managing and deploying Chromebooks to meet the technological demands of the 21st century classroom.

*From Board Room to Classroom* was designed to benefit district leaders exploring how to increase student access to technology through large-scale Chromebook implementation. The presentation discussed how Union County Public Schools altered public policy to create a learning culture based on technology and student access.

### IT Matters Archive

The IT Matters Monthly newsletters is archived online. Those newsletters can be accessed by scanning the QR code or by clicking the hyperlink.



IT Matters Archive

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