



Mifflin County Students attend Technology Showcase

Students from Mifflin County attended the PAECT Student Technology Showcase at the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg on May 9, 2005. This technology showcase is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association for Educational Communications and Technology and it is held annually. Students from all over the state and from all grade levels attend and share their technology projects. Many state senators and representatives are present and spend time viewing the projects, talking with the students and conducting tours of the Capitol. This year Dr. Francis Barnes, Secretary of Education, and Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll attended the showcase and Governor Rendell made a brief appearance.



Indian Valley Middle School students prepare their presentations.



Representative Adam Harris views students' PowerPoint projects.



Students share their projects with Representative Kerry Benninghoff

Indian Valley Middle School students Alicia Walter, Alyssa McConahy, Amanda Baxter, Brittany Harling, Chris Bright, Cody King, Danae Snook, Drew Picketts, Dylan Peters, Laine Campbell, Leslie Houser, Nike Walker, Samantha Romig, Scott Campbell, Shamus Garrity, Stephanie Weader, Terra Kenawell and Zyu Ze attended with their teachers Edna Snook and Steve White.

Their projects involved students using persuasive writing, instructional design, and presentation skills to convince their teachers that teacher knowledge and use of technology can enhance and transform a dull, boring classroom into a hotbed of excitement and learning. Focusing on utilization of projectors and digital cameras, the students used various media to create teacher training manuals and experiences. Students trained teachers and then competed in a friendly Technology Idol type contest to determine which students' training module was the most effective. The prize for students?..... Winning the privilege of presenting at the PAECT 05 Student Technology Showcase!

Buchanan Elementary School third grade students showcased their PowerPoint projects. They created animal reports and autobiographies using web-based research, resources and graphics. Students Allison Sauers, Jacob Larson, Kasie Geise, Seth Isenberg, Zane Long, Alyssa Benevento, Casey McCoy, Christopher Snook, Curtis Jerzerick, Erika Haines, Kiera Shuttlesworth, Sarah Swanson and Zach Dolin attended along with their teachers and advisors Bonnie Whisler, Debra McMullen, Jane Scheuchenzuber and Louise Gramley.

Buchanan student photos from the event will be featured on the School Matters portion of the WTAJ-TV, channel 10 news at 6:30 on June 17, 2005. Make sure you tune in and watch.

Copyright Law for Educators

▶ What is Copyright?

A copyright is a form of intellectual property which secures to its holder the exclusive right to produce copies of his or her works of original expression for a defined, yet extendable, period of time. Works are defined as literary work, movie, musical work or sound recording, painting, photograph, computer program, or industrial design,

Copyrights do not cover *ideas* or *facts*, only the particular *expressions* of such. A copyright on a Mickey Mouse cartoon, for example, does not prevent others from creating artistic works about talking mice. It only prohibits them the right to distribute Disney's cartoon, and to create derivative works closely copying that particular talking mouse. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copyright>)

It is illegal for anyone to violate any of the rights of the copyright law that are provided to the owner of copyright. These rights, however, are not unlimited in scope. One major limitation is the doctrine of "fair use".

▶ Fair Use

"Fair use" is the legal right to copy a limited amount of material under certain conditions without undue harm to the owner; such copying is to be allowed without obtaining permission from the owner. There are four factors that must be considered, as well as the "face to face" teaching exemption. The factors for "fair use" are:

- Purpose and character of use (commercial nature for nonprofit educational purposes);
- Nature of the copyrighted work;
- Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the work as a whole;
- The effect of the use on the potential market for or value of the work.

All four of these criteria need to be applied in judging whether or not there may be an infringement.

▶ Face to Face Teaching Exemption

Special provisions have been made to permit the displaying or performing of audiovisual works in a non-profit educational institution within the following conditions. It must be shown:

- As part of the instructional program;
- By students, instructors, or guest lecturers;
- Either in a classroom or other school location devoted to instruction;
- Either in a face-to-face environment or where students and teacher(s) are in the same building or area;
- Only to students and educators;
- From a legitimate copy and having the copyright notice attached.

▶ Computer Software

Making unauthorized copies of computer software is a serious issue. Software "piracy" is now a felony with fines up to \$250,000 for systematic violations. While most software (even "shareware") is copyrighted, the purchase of software is usually governed by a license agreement as well as by copyright law. The purchaser does not own the software, but rather the right to use the software in a manner described in a license agreement.

► Guidelines for Using Computer Software for Educational Purposes

- Computer software may only be copied by the original owner.
- Only one archival copy may be made of a program. If the used copy fails to work, then the archival copy may be used. If the archival copy fails to work, then a replacement disk must be purchased.
- Printed documentation accompanying a computer program is also protected under software copyright. Archival copies are permitted, but multiple copies for classroom distribution are not permissible.
- A single-user copy of a program may not be installed on multiple machines.
- Multiple copies cannot be made for a lab situation.
- Networking software is not covered under fair use.
- It is illegal to make a copy from a computer program acquired for preview purposes.

► Electronic Mail

The author of an e-mail message owns the content of that message. The recipient of the email may not make copies of that message or distribute it without the consent of the original author. It is best to keep private email private unless the original writer gives permission. Don't forward it to newsgroups or listservs, don't include it in a message to a third party, and don't post it on a Web page, unless permission is granted. At issue, in this instance, are not only copyright laws, but another statute entitled the Privacy Act.

► Web Pages

When using web page information, the same factors regarding copyright should be considered keeping in mind the four tests of fair use. A user should note the following:

- Web-based material is copyrighted and notification of copyright status is not required.
- Teachers may use small portions of Web documents if there is not sufficient time to secure permission.
- Large portions of images, documents, and Web sites should not be taken without prior consent, but many Web pages grant permission for use in educational institutions.
- Students may also use modest portions of Web documents as long as the copies they make belong to them.
- Teachers may not keep copies or originals of works made by students in which they incorporate materials copied from the Internet.
- Showing a Web document to a class constitutes a public performance or display of that page, so it is necessary to gauge how closely a given use meets the fair use test.
- Permission, as always, can override any limitations imposed by the law or guidelines.
- When publishing a Web page, the author must make sure he has the proper rights for the graphics, designs, logos, and photos used.

► For more information, visit these copyright websites:

A Visit to Copyright Bay (<http://www.stfrancis.edu/cid/copyrightbay>)

United States Copyright Office (<http://www.copyright.gov>/<http://www.copyright.gov>)

Copyright Law for Educators (<http://mel.org/viewtopic.jsp?id=1661&pathid=223>)

A Teacher's Guide to Fair Use and Copyright (<http://home.earthlink.net/~cnew/research.htm>)

The Instructional Materials & Research Services Department of the Bucks County Schools, Intermediate Unit #22, has provided this information. If you are interested in receiving detailed brochures and more information, please contact Karen Galbraith.

T echnology Update

*By Hunter French
Network Administrator*

As we draw near to the end of the school year I find myself reflecting upon all the changes that the Information Systems Department has been through over the past twelve months: we have changed personnel, changed procedures (Track-It!), changed software (deploying IGPro), changed hardware (deploying new computers), but most importantly, we have changed our focus.

During the past year we have redoubled our efforts to serve you, the students, staff, and faculty of the Mifflin County School District, with excellence. We have tried to become better listeners, taking the time to meet with many of you in groups or individually. We have tried to address your concerns by researching answers and uncovering new ways to solve old problems. We have tried to gain your trust by implementing increased accountability in the resolution of technology related problems. Finally, we have tried to build a reliable technology platform that each of you can use to accomplish the District's mission.

While I believe we have made great strides this year, we are not finished and we need your help to make the next step. As we determine our priorities for next year I would like to have your input. It would be very helpful to know:

1. What we have done well this year and what could we do better?
2. What steps do you think we could take to enhance our technology to enable you to better educate your students or perform your job?
3. How are you currently integrating technology into your classroom?

Would you consider taking five minutes to write me an email (my address is phf12@mcsdk12.org) and let me know your thoughts? I cannot promise that we will be able to implement all of your suggestions but we will read and discuss each one.

We look forward to working with each of you again during the next school year. Please do not hesitate to send me an email if you have a comment, concern, or compliment about our work.

Our Goals

Our goals are to provide staff with up-to-date information regarding all areas of technology, share helpful hints and ideas, showcase teachers and students and communicate staff development plans. Any questions or suggestions can be directed to **Karen Galbraith * 248-6480 gkg26@mcsdk12.org**