

Log-on



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Mifflin County School District Technology Department

Issue 31

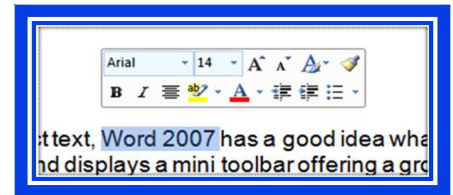
Technology News

► Microsoft Office 2007

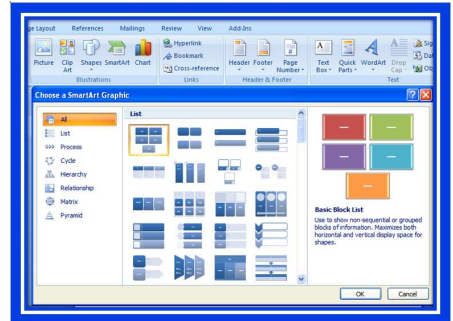
Microsoft Office 2007 will be installed on all district computers next fall. There are Office 2007 copies available from the Technology Department for home use. The request form pdf is attached to this Log-on email and can also be found at https://intranet.mcsdk12.org/fac/forms/MS_WAH_jan08.pdf.

What's New with Word 2007? In the last Log-on, the new look of Word 2007 was discussed. There are many additional features that will make the new version of Word easier to use.

Mini toolbars are a new feature. When you highlight text, a mini toolbar is displayed offering a group of commonly used commands. Point the cursor at the toolbar to select a command to use.

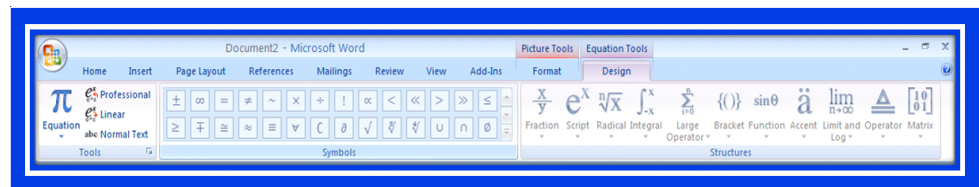


Smart Art is a collection of graphics used to organize information within your document. It includes timelines, outlines, lists and diagrams and automatically makes your document look very professional.



The **Mathematical Equations** feature has been much improved. You can insert many different kinds of mathematical symbols by choosing the Insert tab on the ribbon and choosing the Equations.

Live Previews allow you to preview what a document will look like with a different font, font size or paragraph style. Just click in the document and point to the style, font, etc., on the ribbon and the text will reflect that change. Release the mouse and the text reverts back to its original form. You can find more information and some great tutorials at the sites listed below.



<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/getstarted/FX101055081033.aspx>

<http://www.fgeu.edu/support/office2007/Word/index.asp>

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**

► Regional High School Computer Fair

The third annual Regional High School Computer Fair was held at the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 on Tuesday, April 8.

This year students from Indian Valley and Lewistown High Schools participated. From Indian Valley, Seth Stewart competed in both Graphic Design and Computer Logo Design and won in Computer Logo Design. Tanya Kozak competed and won in the Animation category. Dustin Stein competed in Web Design. Their advisors are Peggy Fisher and Richard Pennepacker. Lewistown students Coty Monroe, Derek Majestic and Matt Colabine competed and won in Web Design and Jordan Marinos, Alex Haines and Julie Dickson competed and won in Digital Movie. Their advisors are Michael Gerhart and Alan Streisel.

The winning students will compete in the State High School Computer Fair at Dickinson College on May 19, 2008. <http://www.pacomputerfair.org/>



► PAECT Student Technology Showcase

The Pennsylvania Association for Communications and Technology (PAECT) 18th annual Student Technology Showcase will be held at the State Capitol on Monday, May 19, 2008. Students from Highland Park, Lewistown and Buchanan Elementary Schools and Indian Valley Middle School will be attending.

Indian Valley Middle School students will present the *Our Town - Lewistown* video-scrapbook. Working with teachers and volunteers, the students wrote, videotaped, and edited the program. During the showcase, students will interview participants and demonstrate how to film, edit, and produce a video. Their advisors are Edna Snook, Hope Palm and Steve White.

Mrs. LaMarca's Lewistown and Buchanan fourth grade students will present their Famous Pennsylvanian Project. Students researched a famous Pennsylvanian and drew pictures of the person and his/her contribution. Scanned pictures and information were inserted into PhotoStory3 and the students narrated their projects. PhotoStory3 compacts the slides and creates a movie with sound and animation. The students will showcase their movie and share information about how it was created.

Students from Mrs. Moon's HPAE fifth grade computer classes will present their Mother's Day projects using PhotoStory3. They gathered pictures of themselves and their families and scanned and inserted them into the program. Students narrated messages to their mothers adding sounds and transitions. Their movies will be saved on CDs and presented as Mother's Day gifts.

These groups will have the opportunity to share their projects with other students, advisors and Pennsylvania legislators and dignitaries including the Lieutenant Governor and the Deputy Secretary of Education.

Find more about PAECT at <http://www.paect.org>.



► Recreating Mifflin County History at Brown Elementary School

Brown Elementary School has received a \$2,000 Best Buy Teach Award from Best Buy Co., Inc. for integrating interactive technology into its curriculum. Their project, *Mifflin County History*, is a collaborative effort between the fourth and fifth grade students at Brown Elementary School, LAHS Media students and the Mifflin County Historical Society.

The Brown students are now in the process of researching famous people and events from Mifflin County history. They are using computer resources, Mifflin County Historical Society resources and print information provided by Forest Fisher, their teacher and local historian. They will reenact history by presenting information about their person or event “on location” at various historical sites in our community.

Students from Lewistown High School Multimedia classes will assist the students in filming the events and creating the movie that will include still shots of students and important historical areas of the county, film clips of the student’s reenactments, and photographs and images from the Historical Society’s archives.

Video cameras and equipment, purchased by the Best Buy Teach Award will be used in the filming of the project.

This project involves Nancy Ressler, Brown Computer teacher, Forest Fisher, Brown fourth grade teacher, Karen Galbraith, Elementary Technology Coordinator, Mike Gerhart, LAHS Multimedia teacher, students from the LAHS Multimedia classes, and representatives from the Mifflin County Historical Society.

The production will be posted on the MCSD website and copies of the DVD will be presented to the Mifflin County Historical Society. The society will be able to share this production with the community.



Guidelines for Selecting a Good Password

As more and more of our daily lives are spent online, the use of a safe password becomes essential. Here are some guidelines to keep in mind when choosing a password.

1. A password should be more than eight character in length and as long as possible.
2. Combine letters, numbers and symbols.
3. Do not use sequential or repeating combinations (12345, aaaaa, abcdef) or adjacent keyboard letters.
4. Do not use your login name, names or birthdates of family members or words found in the dictionary.
Hackers use sophisticated tools that can guess passwords based on words in any language, even those spelled backwards.

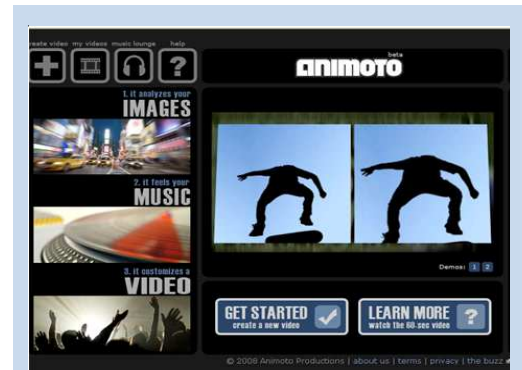
One method to choosing a good password is to use the first letter of each word in a phrase that you can remember. Or use intentionally misspelled words or words with a number or punctuation mark at the end. Finally, change your password often.

Cool Sites!

► Animoto

Animoto is a web application that automatically generates professionally produced videos. Each video is a fully customized orchestration of user-selected images and music. Produced in widescreen format, Animoto videos have the visual energy of a music video and the emotional impact of a movie trailer. A short 30 second video is free and it includes about 12-15 pictures. It is a great way to grab your students interest at the beginning of a unit, use it to create a project or just turn your own pictures into a really professional looking video.

<http://animoto.com>



► Teacher Tube

TeacherTube is an online community for sharing instructional videos. The videos are educationally focused and safe for teachers and students. The site provides anytime, anywhere professional development with teachers teaching teachers. Teachers can post videos designed for students to view in order to learn a concept or skill or search and download a video to use in your classroom. The site is free although you do have to set up a user name and password.

<http://www.teachertube.com>



► Google Maps - Street Views

Now you can virtually drive down many of the main streets in US cities. In any of the active cities you can virtually select any area on any street highlighted in blue and get a 360 degree view from that point. Rotate the image or take a virtual drive down the road by clicking the directional arrows. Zoom in on any image to take a closer look.

<http://maps.google.com>



Other Helpful Sites

Pics 4 Learning: Educational clip art that is free, categorized, and copyright friendly. <http://pics4learning.com>

Recipe for Success: Free Rubric Maker, Graphic Organizer Maker and Citation Maker
http://myt4l.com/index.php?v=pl&page_ac=view&type=tools

Acronym Finder: Find the meaning of any acronym. <http://www.acronymfinder.com/>