



SVRTC NEWSLETTER

Fall 2014



MISSION: The Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium will assist members with coordinating the acquisition and effective integration of viable up-to-date and emerging technologies, valuable training for K-12 students, staff and other citizens in our communities to enhance learning at all levels and encourage economic development in Southside Virginia.

In the Spotlight.....

PITTSYLVANIA County Schools

Students in Pittsylvania County Schools are extending their classroom activities at the division's new *STEM Academy* which opened in August. Initially, the academy is focusing on fifth, seventh, and ninth grade students but will expand to include additional grade levels and activities in the future. The STEM Academy provides relevant learning experiences designed to expand classroom learning, engage students in activities centered on the principles of engineering design and the scientific method, and foster an interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. In these images, fifth grade students apply both the scientific method and engineering design

principles as they collaborate with classmates to design a system to clarify their water using



only materials, which would have been available to anyone in a survival situation. Students use a turbidity

sensor to test the clarity of their water before and after running it



through the water filtration device they have designed, recording and analyzing their results.

Ninth grade Earth Science students enrich their study of geologic processes and their resulting features. A motion detector on a meter stick is used to map various replicas of the ocean floor created by the students using assorted boxes. Students work in teams to create, map, observe, and record their findings.



HOPEWELL: “Tech Unleashed”

Tech Unleashed is Hopewell's annual technology professional development affair each fall. This half-day tradition, which began in the 2008-2009 school year, is a smorgasbord of tech topics presented in one- to two-hour sessions. It is truly a grassroots, collaborative effort, led almost exclusively by Hopewell teachers.



Topics include:

Blendspace, Livebinders, FitBit, Socrative, Symbaloo, Edmodo, QR Codes, Gradespeed, Class Dojo, Plickers and many more! Registration for Tech Unleashed occurs online on the division's Moodle site. Teachers select two to four sessions to attend. Points toward licensure renewal are awarded to teachers for their involvement in the trainings. The Moodle site is also used for a feedback questionnaire after the event to gather input on what teachers found effective and what topics teachers would like to pursue further.



LUNENBURG: Student Tablets

On Friday, October 10, 9th and 10th grade students at Central High School (CHS), received their own wireless tablet to utilize for schoolwork. This opportunity came about as a result of the Federal Backpack Initiative Grant that Lunenburg



County Public Schools received. The grant is in place for four years. Each tablet costs about \$500. The next two freshmen classes will receive tablets at the beginning of their freshman school year.

Students can do numerous things with the tablet, from writing a paper in Microsoft Word to searching the internet for the information for the paper. All school security blocks regarding internet safety are in place for the student as they use their tablet, even at home. Students who acquired insurance for their tablets are able to take them home. The school offers insurance through Safeware at just under \$44 per school year that covers anything that could happen to the tablet. Parents may also choose to add the tablet to their existing insurance policy. If a parent opts for no insurance, the student's tablet must stay at school. Teachers are already using the tablets for various activities in the classroom. Spanish textbooks have also been downloaded on the tablets.



SAVE THE DATE:

SVRTC Meetings:

January 21--NHS

February 18 --NHS

March ?? – Awards Banquet

Longwood University

April 15 – NHS

**VSTE: December 7-9
Virginia Beach**

