

# Connecting Points Newsletter

Keeping you informed where technology and school district functions connect

June 2009

[www.calhounisd.org](http://www.calhounisd.org)

## *Student Service Connecting Points: Zangle*

### **Linking Moodle/Blackboard to Zangle**

The CISD has written a custom integration between the Zangle grade book and Learning Management Systems like Moodle. This custom integration allows a teacher to automatically move grades from the LMS into their Zangle grade book. This allows the teacher to take advantage of all the LMS gradebook features without having to re-key the grades in their normal grade book saving them time and frustration. We will be working on an integration between Blackboard and Zangle this summer.

## *Business Office Connecting Points*

### **Cyborg Release 5.2.1**

Cyborg release 5.2 is just around the corner. CDOT and Wayne RESA have been testing and running payrolls over the past few months and we will be converting all the CDOT districts over the summer. The conversion process will not be as lengthy as the previous one, and downtime is expected to be just 1 day. The new release features enhanced security and improved garnishment processing. Also, to everyone's joy, with the exception of User ID and Password, you no longer have to use Caps Lock!

### **Time Entry Available Through SMART**

Time Entry is now running through SMART. If you would like to use this module to enter timecards (great for keeping history and distributing to your buildings) or just attendance, please contact Carole or Sherry at CDOT.

### **Customizing Printing of Vendor Checks**

One of the nice features of the SMART Accounts Payable module is the flexibility it offers in customizing printing of vendor checks. With just the change of a single field, it is possible to break up payments across more than one check or selectively group payments together. To learn more please visit the Finance section of <http://www.calhounisd.org> under the Technology/REMC department link and look for Job Aids.

#### **Did You Know?**

- Zangle has the ability to send out custom e-mail notifications? One district is using this to send an attendance letter/notification to parents/guardians once a student has met a certain attendance criteria like 3 unexcused absences.
- Administrators can export ZangleConnect Gradebook scores and tasks on a per building basis or per teacher basis as desired. This can help with retaining year to year detailed grade book information

#### **Did You Know?**

- Two fiscal years can be open in SMART system at the same time. Projected availability date is June 30, 2009.
- For next fiscal year Electronic Requisitions available, please contact Joy Sommers to have this feature enabled.

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## REMC 12 East (Calhoun/Branch) districts save over \$1.3 Million by using the REMC \$ave Project

Whether purchasing paper, computers, office supplies, projectors, or any of the products negotiated for school purchasing, the REMC \$ave project continues to benefit schools. **In calendar year 2008** alone, the schools in Branch and Calhoun ISDs saved \$1,328,971.42. That is 36% off of the education pricing. Equated per student, that is an average of \$40 per student cost avoidance by using the \$ave project. For more information, visit [www.remcbid.org](http://www.remcbid.org).

### Did You Know?

- The CISD is helping 4 local districts save significant dollars by leveraging an open source IP phone system to replace their antiquated equipment.

## January - December 2008 REMC 12 East \$ave Project Usage Report

	Quantity	Educational List Price	Total REMC Price	Savings	Percent Savings
Albion Public Schools	6,249	326,168.40	161,209.86	164,958.54	50.6%
Arbor Academy	2,240	20,129.52	14,481.69	5,647.83	28.1%
Athens Area Schools	4,926	23,150.85	13,349.87	9,800.98	42.3%
Battle Creek Area Learning Center	1,489	9,090.24	5,542.91	3,547.33	39.0%
Battle Creek Public Schools	96,646	469,348.89	259,650.99	209,697.90	44.7%
Bellevue Community Schools	2,356	24,934.48	16,481.64	8,452.84	33.9%
Branch ISD	4,191	88,932.45	58,052.79	30,879.66	34.7%
Bronson Community School District	7,748	108,866.01	71,831.45	37,034.56	34.0%
Calhoun ISD	16,126	341,080.66	246,326.13	94,754.53	27.8%
Coldwater Community Schools	20,544	379,331.22	211,869.64	167,461.58	44.1%
Endeavor Charter Academy	368	2,001.15	1,374.90	626.25	31.3%
Harper Creek Community Schools	23,918	253,334.36	171,812.65	81,521.71	32.2%
Homer Community Schools	2,516	32,485.83	18,312.33	14,173.50	43.6%
Lakeview Sch. District (Calhoun)	15,545	593,669.00	501,984.73	91,684.27	15.4%
Mar Lee School District	2,344	21,598.86	13,162.52	8,436.34	39.1%
Marshall Public Schools	10,120	266,804.34	188,070.20	78,734.14	29.5%
Olivet Community Schools	7,505	90,350.12	59,000.90	31,349.22	34.7%
Pansophia Academy	110	433.30	201.34	231.96	53.5%
Pennfield School District	6,599	495,531.21	260,253.60	235,277.61	47.5%
Quincy Community School District	7,966	67,213.07	42,262.75	24,950.32	37.1%
Tekonsha Community Schools	1,601	21,986.20	14,210.04	7,776.16	35.4%
Union City Community Schools	6,130	56,424.50	34,450.31	21,974.19	38.9%
<b>REMC 12 East Totals</b>	<b>247,237</b>	<b>\$3,692,864.66</b>	<b>\$2,363,893.24</b>	<b>\$1,328,971.42</b>	<b>36.0%</b>

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## *Teaching and Learning Connecting Points*

### **Summer Professional Development Collaborative Opportunities – support for Technology Integration**

We have coordinated a list of summer professional development opportunities for your staff that focuses on integration of technology. Pennfield, Athens, Marshall, Lakeview, Union City, and the CISD are collaborating together to offer sessions to anyone from Barry, Branch and Calhoun counties. This is a great collaborative effort. Courses can be registered through <http://pdreg.calhounisd.org>. A summary of the offerings are located at <http://calhounisd.org/professionaldevelopment/>.

### **FREE Algebra I Online Credit Recovery Course available Fall 2009 – sign up for training this summer!**

The Michigan Schools Online Grant surveyed Michigan educators to determine the need for online courses. The number one by far was credit recovery for Algebra I. As a result, the MSOL grant, coordinated through Genesee ISD in partnership with REMC Association, has purchased this course and added to it to ensure it is aligned fully with Michigan Content Expectations. In addition, training for educators who wish to learn how to teach the course online is available. This is a two week course offered this summer. See the flyer with registration information at <http://calhounisd.org/professionaldevelopment/>

### **Learning How to Teach and Learn Online Course offered**

By popular demand, we are once again offering the “Teaching & Learning Online: Effectively facilitating an online or blended course.” This course is a four week course that focuses not on the tools of online learning, but the process. The skills learned here are excellent and help prepare the teacher/administrator for teaching online. See the flyer with registration information at <http://calhounisd.org/professionaldevelopment/>

### **Social Studies Lesson Plans – technology infused**

A dozen educators from the region (consultants, media specialists, instructional technologist) met to identify instructional technology resources for use in middle school social studies lessons. Peggy Stewart, Education Consultant for Calhoun ISD, led a committee that spent the past year creating a common K-8 social studies curriculum with lesson plans. We discussed examples of how to infuse technology into some of these social studies lessons, while keeping the focus on the content. The group will continue to meet to focus on middle school lesson plans and providing technology infusion ideas. Contact Mike Oswalt at [oswaltm@calhounisd.org](mailto:oswaltm@calhounisd.org) if you are interested in being involved. Pictured at right are Gigi Lincoln, Media Specialist, Lakeview; Marsha Lambert, Media Specialist, Marshall; and Melinda Waffle, Educational Technology Coordinator, Union City.



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## **Creative Commons - Good for Education**

People often utilize material such as text, images, music, movies, from the Internet without considering copyright. While they should be encouraged to follow fair-use guidelines, an easier solution is to find and use material identified with the Creative Commons license. Creative Commons licenses identify work as being available to freely use and depending on the license, potentially modify or repurpose, without the need for approval from the creator. It's good for educators and students to not only find and use material with the Creative Commons (CC) license identifier, but also to create material which is identified with the CC license. A useful video about the value of Creative Commons in education may be found at: <http://blip.tv/file/285260>

Three ways to get started:

- Promote Creative Commons and encourage users to search on the Internet for material identified with the Creative Commons license. In Google or Flickr's Advanced Search there is a choice to find only items available which are identified with a Creative Commons license.
- Add Creative Commons license identifiers to items you create. You can select the CC license identifier with supports the rights you want to provide from: <http://creativecommons.org/license>.
- Add a MS Office Add-on to allow the easy insertion of this code into the footer of documents you create. [http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Microsoft\\_Office\\_Addin](http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Microsoft_Office_Addin)

Creative Commons is good for education. When educators (or students) become part of the community of sharing, they help to build capacity which benefits everyone.

## **Online Learning – Making a Difference in Learning: Blackboard Best Practices**

- Best Practices – Examples from Blackboard  
[http://bb9-k12.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab\\_group\\_id=135\\_1](http://bb9-k12.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab_group_id=135_1)
- Exemplary Blackboard Sites - OCM BOCES – similar to an ISD; upstate NY  
[http://blackboard.ocmboces.org/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab=courses&url=/bin/common/course.pl?course\\_id=454](http://blackboard.ocmboces.org/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab=courses&url=/bin/common/course.pl?course_id=454)
- How Blackboard is successfully being used to support & extend learning, University of Texas – QuickTime movies  
<http://www.utexas.edu/academic/blackboard/examples/> Try out the Narrated Tours on the left side or explore a specific grade level.
- Blackboard's EduViews <http://www.k12perspectives.com/>

## *Data for Student Success*

### **Data for Student Success goes Statewide!**

Calhoun ISD continues to lead the Data for Student Success project, in partnership with Michigan Department of Education and Center for Educational Performance Information (CEPI). Our model is to train ISDs/RESAs so that they in turn can use the professional development modules and materials, along with the data inquiry tool, with their local school districts. As of June 1, 39 ISDs/RESAs have attended events conducted by CISD staff. There are also over 3,000 user accounts in the D4SS Inquiry Tool. [www.data4ss.org](http://www.data4ss.org).

Building a Culture of Quality Data for Student Success

Awarded through the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI), the Data for Student Success project is funded by a Federal Title II grant and is led by Calhoun ISD in partnership with the Michigan Department of Education and CEPI. The focus of the grant is to further the culture of data driven decision making in Michigan's schools by providing a quality professional development model and dynamic inquiry tool. The Data4SS website is a repository of information and resources related to the Data4SS project.

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## Calhoun ISD Connecting Points

The Calhoun ISD provides this “Connecting Points” newsletter to provide the districts we serve relevant and timely information about technology-related topics within school district functions. We call the cross section of technology-related topics and school district functions ‘connecting points.’

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us:

Mike Oswalt Assistant Superintendent	Regional Technology Services (REMC, Educational Technology, Data Director/Data for Student Success)	<a href="mailto:oswaltm@calhounisd.org">oswaltm@calhounisd.org</a> 269.789.2439
Sam Lutgring Director	Informational Technology Services (Zangle, Fiber, Technology Support)	<a href="mailto:lutgrins@calhounisd.org">lutgrins@calhounisd.org</a> 269.789.2433
Doug Smith, Director	Organizational Technology Services (Cyborg, SMART, CISD Technologies)	<a href="mailto:smithde@calhounisd.org">smithde@calhounisd.org</a> 269.789.2424
Help Desk		<a href="mailto:helpdesk@calhounisd.org">helpdesk@calhounisd.org</a>

## 2009/10 Meeting Dates

### September 16 at CISD

8:30 – 2:00 Annual Ed Tech Symposium (TLC, RITC, Media Council)

2 – 3:30 REMC 12E Media Council Meeting

### November 11, January 13, March 18, May 20 at CISD

For each of the above dates, the schedule is:

8:30 – 9:30 Blackboard Key Contacts

8:30 – 9:30 REMC 12E Media Council

9:30 – 12:00 Regional Instructional Technology Committee (RITC)

12 – 12:45 Lunch and Learn (RITC, Media Council, TLC welcome)

12:45 – 1:30 Technology Leadership Council (TLC)

### September 10, November 12, January 14, March 11, June 10 at CISD

Zangle Planning 8:30 – 11:30

### September 10, November 12, January 14, March 11, May 13 at CISD

Data Director Key Contacts, 12 – 3 (with lunch)

### September, October, November, February, March, April, May at CACC

Cyborg user meetings are third Wednesdays at 2:00 for the months above

### September, December, January and June at CACC

Finance meetings are tentatively the second Fridays at 1:30 for the months above

## XEROGRAPHIC PAPER BID UPDATE

The paper contract expired May 31, 2009. The new contract will run from June 1<sup>st</sup> - November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. We are pleased to announce a 10% price reduction for the majority of paper bid items and now offer off-set paper to the product mix. Central Michigan Paper solely won the award and eliminated the \$3 per case inside delivery charge and can provide several delivery methods options based on size of order. Contract posted on remcbid.org June 1, 2009.

## MACUL 2009 / ETLC 2009

### GET CONNECTED, GET EDUCATED, & \$AVE WITH THE REMC STATEWIDE \$AVE BID PROJECT!

The REMC Bid Project was a sponsor of the MACUL Conference and Model Classroom this year. The Project also conducted a well-attended "Interactive Classroom Technology Build-A-Bundle" session in partnership with several REMC vendors.

*Due to demand, this session will be conducted again at the ETLC Conference on Monday, June 22, 2009 at 2:30 PM at Holt High School in Holt, Michigan.*

## BUYING GUIDES

Selection Tools have been redesigned into Buying Guides with some new topics added this year, as follows:

- ♦ Computer Bundles & Network Electronics
- ♦ Digital Cameras & Digital Video Camcorders
- ♦ Document Cameras
- ♦ Interactive Whiteboards (IWBs)
- ♦ Multimedia Projectors
- ♦ Podcasting & Vodcasting
- ♦ Interactive Classroom Technology Build-A-Bundle
- ♦ Printers & Scanners

Buying guides are online at <http://remcbid.org> under the **Resources** and can be printed (11"x17" paper format). Some districts have found these helpful for technology planning and distributing to parent groups for purchasing ideas. *Don't see a buying guide for something? Let us know and we'll work to make it happen! Simply e-mail us at [remcbid@inghamisd.org](mailto:remcbid@inghamisd.org).*

## PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS

*It is that time of year again!* We are looking for product Recommendations for the supplies and equipment bids. Is there a product we don't have on the bid that we should? If so, visit <http://remcbid.org> and click on **Product Recommendation Form** link to submit your recommendations.

## SELECTION CART AT REMCBID.ORG

As schools wrap up their fiscal year, the REMC \$AVE Bid Project selection cart can make end-of-the-year purchasing easier. Some schools and districts have required all of their teachers to create accounts and use the cart to select their purchases. The cart contents can be saved, printed or e-mailed. The cart output includes all of the information needed to create a purchase order, which reduces the potential of errors and delays in ordering.

If your customers have found other creative ways to use the selection cart feature, please let us know at [remcbid@inghamisd.org](mailto:remcbid@inghamisd.org) so that we can share the information with others.

## VENDOR EVALUATIONS

We rely on customer feedback in order to improve service. Please use the online form at [remcbid.org](http://remcbid.org) to submit your vendor evaluations. We want to learn more about your business transaction and customer service experiences. Complete the online form at <http://remcbid.org> under **Feedback** link to submit your feedback information.

## COMPUTER RECYCLING PROGRAM - APPLE

This spring, Apple will recycle your school's old, unwanted Mac computers, PCs, and qualifying peripherals from any manufacturer for free no purchase required. All accredited K-12 and higher education institutions with at least 25 pieces (computers, printers or displays) are eligible to participate but registration by the deadline is required. To register, simply visit Apple's Education website at: [http://education.apple.com/contact me/recycle/index.php?e=5539881](http://education.apple.com/contact_me/recycle/index.php?e=5539881).

## MICROSOFT UPDATE

Microsoft is discontinuing the sale of Encarta June 2009. MSN Encarta remains online through October 2009. "Microsoft will grant a perpetual license for Microsoft Encarta Premium 2009 and/or Microsoft Student with Encarta Premium 2009 to School Agreement customers. The grant includes one perpetual license per subscription license in effect for the month of April 2009 (or later)." Additional information can be found on the Microsoft education web site at: <http://www.microsoft.com/education/products/buy.aspx>.

## SOFTWARE BID UPDATE

The current software contract ends June 30, 2009. The new contract will be in place July 1, 2009- June 30, 2012. Adobe, Microsoft, Inspiration, Sophos and many new software manufacturers and titles will be on this 3-year contract and includes subscription based products.

CATEGORY	NEW
Absolute	X
Adobe	
Atempo	X
Avaya	X
Barnum	X
Barracuda	X
BrainWare	X
Capella Technologies Assessment and Grading Solution	X
CEO Imaging	
Citrix	X
Compellent	X
Crick	
Custom Typing	X
Discovery Education	X
EOA Scientific	X
FileMaker	
Gamco	X
General Catalog Discount	X
Get Ahead Math	X
HeartSoft	X
HelpMe2Learn	X
Houghton Mifflin	
Houghton Mifflin- Math Fact Fluency	X
Houghton Mifflin -Skills Tutor	X
Houghton Mifflin -Training	X
Inspiration	
Juniper	X
Knowledge Adventure	
LANSchool	X
MacKiev	

CATEGORY	NEW
Micrograms	X
Microsoft	
Ncomputing	X
NetOp	X
NetSupport	X
One2OneMate	X
ONSSI	X
Parallels	X
Promethean- Active Inspire	X
Quikscout	X
Renaissance Learning Accelerated Reader/Math, STAR, English in a Flash	X
RM Education	
Ruckus Wireless	X
SCATE Technologies	X
SMART Technologies	
Sophos	
Sunburst	
Symantec	
Tactus Technology	X
TechSmith	
Tom Snyder	
Tool Factory	X
Veramark	X
VMWare	X

*We enjoy hearing from you!  
REMC Statewide \$AVE Project Bid Staff*