

# Connecting Points Newsletter

*Keeping you informed where technology and school district functions connect*

*January 2007*

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

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.'

## *Teaching and Learning Connecting Points*

### *Online Courses*

Information on the wide variety of options available for students to take online courses has been presented to various groups, including high school principals and counselors. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Here is a quick reference for some of the resources available:

- Michigan Virtual High School, [www.mivhs.org](http://www.mivhs.org), Bob Currie, (800) 393-6052
- REMC Online Learning through Genesee ISD, [www.gennet.us](http://www.gennet.us), Mike Oswalt (269) 789-2439
- NovaNet, <http://www.pearsondigital.com/novanet/>
- Career Forward, [www.mivhs.org/careerforward](http://www.mivhs.org/careerforward)

### *United Streaming*

Marilyn Anderson is available to provide in-district training for teachers on using United Streaming. United Streaming is the product that is substantially discounted thanks to the work of the REMC Association of Michigan (\$385 per building per year). Since the beginning of school, 13,688 videos were streamed and 4,345 were downloaded by the sixty-one subscribing school buildings in Calhoun and Branch counties. Contact Marilyn Anderson for more info at [andersom@calhounisd.org](mailto:andersom@calhounisd.org) or (269) 789-2410.

### *Online Learning Experience*

The REMC Association has submitted a companion document to the online learning experience guidelines (<http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-42825---,00.html>). While the current guidelines have clear information about online courses, the experiences section is very open. While it is good to have freedom to choose how to implement an online experience, many districts are asking for direction. This document is meant to help schools understand the essential components of online learning experiences and provide some examples. The REMC committee that has written this document includes: Sue Porter; Melissa White (Ingham); Carolyn McCarthy (Shiawassee); Tim Davis (Saginaw); Anne Thorp (Ottawa); Ricki Chowning (REMC); Jim Cowden (St. Clair), Mike Oswalt (Calhoun). Though not released, here is a sneak peak at the section that talks about the (see next page):

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## Essential Characteristics of Quality Online Learning Experiences

In order to fulfill the Online Experience requirement through incorporating the 20 hours of online learning experiences, it should be noted that quality online learning experiences have common characteristics and meet METS (Michigan Educational Technology standards - <http://www.techplan.org/>). While each experience may not address every characteristic, it is assumed that upon completion of the minimum collective 20 hours of experiences, **each of the following characteristics will have been represented:**

Characteristic	Explanation
<b>Collaborative experience between students</b>	All students are required to be involved in developing working relationships with an educator and other students online. Look for online collaboration tools, such as a learning management system that must also include collaborative tools such as discussions/forums, Wikis, and Google Docs and Spreadsheets where students can work cooperatively asynchronously and synchronously.
<b>Integrated</b>	Every experience is not only aligned with METS but must also be aligned to Content Standards that support and enhance your curriculum content.
<b>Sustainability</b>	The experience(s) must provide an opportunity to practice using technology tools, explore the virtual learning environment and develop a comfort level operating in this space. This requires a period of time and is not accomplished in just one experience.
<b>Life-long Learning Skills</b>	As a result of the online learning experiences, students will develop proficiencies for online learning throughout their lives. They will become life-long learners and will develop and embrace online skills through accessing, analyzing and evaluating information resources; incorporating communication skills; and practicing problem-solving, interpersonal and self-directional skills.
<b>Teacher Involvement</b>	The teacher is involved in the online learning experience in any of these ways: guiding, facilitating, designing, monitoring, providing feedback, interacting, supporting, assessing and mentoring the online learning experience.
<b>Online Ethics &amp; Safety</b>	The teacher or online experience will include discussion of and access to information for students regarding issues of Internet safety, social networking, ethical responsibility, fair use and intellectual property rights (e.g. iSafe curriculum or participation, WebWise Kids CD Games, and NetSmartz kids Real-life Video Resources).

As described earlier in the document, an online learning experience has several elements. *These are not meant to be stand-alone experiences* but opportunities to extend learning through online activities. It is important to note that the collective online learning experiences are meant to include a variety of experiences.

Rest assured, as soon as it becomes public, you will receive copies of the entire document. As always, please feel free to call me at any time.

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## *Read Across the Planet (RAP)*

Due to program bugs, the registration deadline for RAP has been extended from January 10 to January 19, 2007. So far we have 14 classrooms signed up. If classroom teachers wish to register (we have only a few spaces left at CISD) register as soon as possible. Contact Marilyn Anderson at [andersom@calhounisd.org](mailto:andersom@calhounisd.org) or (269) 789-2410 to begin the registration process.

This is the first year for foreign language connections! We have 3 classrooms registered so far - 1 French class and 2 Spanish classes. Here are all the classrooms registered (we do not have the times scheduled yet - this will happen late this month):

<i>Teacher Name</i>	<i>Building Name</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>District</i>
Mary Petro	Harrington	2 (age 8)	Albion
Cheryl Frey	North Pennfield Elementary	K (age 6)	Pennfield
Marian Shafer	Pennfield Purdy Elementary	3 (age 9)	Pennfield
Amanda Arbuckle	Homer Middle School	5 (age 11)	Homer
Royce Crandall	Homer Middle School	5 (age 11)	Homer
Melissa McKenna	Lillian Fletcher Elementary	1 (age 7)	Homer
Nancy Lemmon	Lillian Fletcher Elementary	2 (age 8)	Homer
Sue Woodliff	Lillian Fletcher Elementary	3 (age 9)	Homer
Carol Stewart	Lillian Fletcher Elementary	4 (age 10)	Homer
Michele Calloway	Pennfield Central Elementary	5 (age 11)	Pennfield
Liz Rivers	Pennfield Central Elementary	4 (age 10)	Pennfield

<i>Teacher Name</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>School</i>
Susan Cook	HS 3rd Year (ages 15-18)	Spanish	Homer High School
Brian Herr	HS 3rd Year (ages 15-18)	French	Harper Creek High School
Sarita Collins	HS 3rd Year (ages 15-18)	Spanish	Harper Creek High School

## *Business Office Connecting Points*

### *Cyborg Payroll*

- The REP report was completed for all districts on time. New requirements by the state resulted in major changes to the process of reporting REP.
- Year end work has commenced with the districts to prepare W-2s. W-2 classes have been scheduled for January 10 through January 19, 2007.

The next Cyborg user meeting will be February 21 at CATC.

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## *Finance*

- FID submission to CEPI was completed on November 15 with all districts submitting prior to the midnight deadline.
- Processing of 1099 forms will commence in January. This year will be the first year that all 1099s will be processed exclusively through the SMART system. SMART makes processing of 1099s much easier than the WISE system.
- Conversion of Quincy to exclusive use of the SMART system progresses with accounts being migrated to the RESA numbering scheme.

## *Student Services Connection Points*

### *Zangle*

- Fields to accommodate the Cyborg ID and State ID (PIC) for staff has been added to Zangle. We will be pre-populating these for existing staff in an export from Cyborg.
- There is now a grade book extract feature in Zangle. This will be discussed at the next Zangle Planning Meeting.

The next Zangle meeting will be January 22 at 8 a.m. at CISD

## *Technology Efficiencies Connecting Points*

### *Spam Filtering*

The CISD continues to provide e-mail spam filtering. There has been a continued increase in the spam volume on the Internet over the last few months. Those districts using the spam filtering received 3,784,952 messages in December of which only 338,349 or about 9% was not spam.

## *Data Driven Connecting Points*

### *Increased Support for Districts*

Kevin Bullard has been hired by CISD to provide the data analysis support of the data warehouse project. He will be a key link between school improvement/curriculum, technology, pupil accounting, special education and Achieve as he works similar to a 'business analyst' helping to find the data/process necessary to meet the needs defined by these departments.

The next Data Director Key Contacts meeting will be January 10 at 1 p.m. at CISD

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## *Upcoming Meetings:*

### RITC (Regional Instructional Technology Committee)

January 11, CISD, 9 – 1 with lunch. Please RSVP if you haven't already

### TLC (Technology Leadership Council)

January 18, CISD, 11:30 – 3. Lunch and Learn provided by Novell

March 22, CISD, 11:30 - 3

May 17, CISD, 11:30 – 3

### REMC Media Council

February 15, Lakeview High School, 1 p.m.

May 3, CISD, 1 p.m.

### TLC and RITC meetings for 2007/2008

Mark your calendars! We are putting these meetings back to back to help you! For each of these days (Tuesdays), the meeting format will be RITC from 10 – 12, Lunch and Learn from 12 - 12:30, and TLC from 12:30 – 2:30. All will be at CISD: September 11, 2007, November 13, 2007, January 15, 2008, March 11, 2008, May 15, 2008.

## *Calhoun ISD Connecting Points*

Mike Oswalt

Assistant Superintendent

Sam Lutgring

Director

Doug Smith,

Director

Help Desk

Regional Technology Services and REMC

Informational Technology Services

(Zangle, Fiber, Technology Support)

Organizational Technology Services

(Cyborg, SMART, CISD Technologies)

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