

Connecting Points Newsletter

Keeping you informed where technology and school district functions connect

March 2008

www.calhounisd.org

Business Office Connecting Points

SMART Finance Migration – It’s not the finance system you used to know!

SMART has been slowly replacing Wise for a couple of years now with a complete replacement scheduled to occur by April 1 of this year. SMART Full Throttle (FT) is the replacement finance package for the old host based Wise program. Besides providing a new graphical user interface, it provides modules and capabilities not available in the older Wise application. Here is a summary:

Comparison of WISE Finance -v- SMART FT Finance

Feature	WISE Finance	SMART FT Finance
Electronic Requisition Program	Yes, cumbersome setup	Yes, easy setup
Vendor Maintenance	Yes	Yes, larger field size than WISE
Ledger Maintenance	Yes	Yes, larger field size than WISE
Accounts Receivable Package	No	Yes
- Setup Clients	No	Yes
- Client Invoices	No	Yes
- Client Statements	No	Yes
- Post Client Payments against Invoices	No	Yes
Finance Task - View before Posting	No	Yes
Finance Task - View after Posting	No	Yes
Finance Task - Edit before Posting	Yes	Yes, much easier to do, too!
Finance Task - View the Interfund Postings	No	Yes
Upload Budget to Finance	Yes, through TSO, cumbersome	Yes, user friendly!
Purchase Order Delete	Yes	Yes
Purchase Order Close-Out	No (have to delete instead)	Yes
Renumber Checks in Check Run	Yes, but must be entire batch	Yes, can renumber a range anywhere in the batch
Purchase Card Activity Uploaded	Yes, but cumbersome using TSO	Yes, easy process
Real-time reporting	Yes through TSO reports, but SMART was a day behind unless Consultant did a refresh	Yes SMART is real-time, and TSO reports are a day behind unless consultant updates the Host files

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The actual migration process is very easy for a district and involves the district simply reframing from utilizing Wise Finance and SMART Requisition (PO) starting at 11:00 AM the day of their migration. The following morning is devoted to training at the district for as many hours as needed. Finance personnel can look up information in SMART Transaction Analysis during this time, and payroll personnel can work in Cyborg, as long as nobody is doing anything that would update the General Ledger the afternoon of the migration. If a district needs additional training time on the SMART Finance system, they can schedule that with Joy at sommersj@calhounisd.org or (269) 968-9209 x6139.

As of Feb. 25th we have 5 districts running on SMART F/T (no more WISE). Those districts are Quincy, Branch Area Career Center, Coldwater, Athens, and the Student Activity Funds of Battle Creek. The remaining THIRTEEN districts are scheduled to migrate between now and March 28th! Those districts are (in order) Bronson, Olivet, Battle Creek, Branch ISD, Bellevue, Homer, Marshall, Pennfield, Willard Library, Tekonsha, Albion, Marlee, and Calhoun ISD.

Payroll/HR: 2007 W-2 Processing

The month of January was spent working with districts to complete the W-2 process. This year we held workshops in our CDOT lab working with two districts at a time which proved to be very efficient. We were able to complete the processing time of 16 school districts in eight sessions which took approximately two hours per session, and in some cases, it was less than two hours. For perspective, that represents the processing of approximately 7,500 W-2s in less than 16 man hours or more than 469 W-2s per hour thanks to our refined W-2 process. Additionally, all districts had their W-2s to distribute to staff by January 17, 2008, well in advance of the January 31st due date.

Did you know?

- Did you know the E-Voucher is available to all districts giving your staff the ability to view their direct deposit information online?
- Did you know that you can manage employee health and safety information by recording and tracking emergency medical information, injury, illnesses, work restrictions, and emergency contacts in the Cyborg System?
- You can access your Cyborg Users Meeting information on the CISD web site? You can also download all documents passed out at the meetings (forms, calendars, procedures, etc.) at www.calhounisd.org/departments/technologyremc/payrollhumanresources/usermeetings/
- For more information please contact CISD Cyborg Consultants Carole McNamara mcnamarc@calhounisd.org or Sherry Williams williams@calhounisd.org.

Cyborg Users Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2 – 4 p.m. @ CACC in All-Purpose room

Finance Users Meeting is at CACC at 1:30 on June 18 in All-Purpose Rooms

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Data for Student Success

Data for Student Success Schmoker Event – Results Now

March 6, 2008

Battle Creek, Michigan, McCamly Plaza Hotel

Mike Schmoker is the author of "Results Now." In his presentation, Dr. Schmoker will lay down the most important challenge of the decade not only for educators but for every citizen. Will we choose to enter an "era of unprecedented effectiveness" or will we succumb to the siren song of secure sameness? We know how to make dramatic improvements in educational achievement and equity. The only question is whether we have the political and personal courage to do it. Combining compelling case studies and overwhelming national evidence, Mike Schmoker's words will startle and provoke every educator, leader, staff developer, parent and policymaker. All of us share responsibility for where we are today, and each of us must take to heart Schmoker's admonitions and his encouraging vision of the future.

For registration information, please visit www.calhounisd.org and enter 'schmoker' in the search box.

DATA Director - Did you know?

- Michigan Merit Curriculum and High School Course Content Expectations are now loaded for all content areas
- 07/08 8th grade Technology Literacy Exam has been developed and shared with districts key contacts
- Fall 07 MEAP data is available for reporting for grades 3-8
- Along with MEAP and transcript data, summative exam data can be used in the Multiple Assessment Listing and Pivot table report

Data Director Key Contacts meetings are at Calhoun ISD from 1:30 – 3:30 on March 11 and May 13
Data Director Conference sponsored by Achieve! on April 1 and 2, Henry Center in Lansing. See flyer at end of newsletter for information – **registration deadline is March 15.**

Teaching and Learning Connecting Points

REMC A/V Repair

Effective June 15, 2008, Calhoun ISD will no longer be providing audio/visual repair services. With the significant decrease in cost for new units, schools are purchasing new VCR or DVD players rather than repairing broken units. As an example, we have only had 3 VCRs in for repair this year. Also, because there is an increase in access to LCD projectors in schools, overhead projectors are not being used as often. From February 2006 – January 2007, we repair 107 projectors. For the next year, we have only repaired 88.

We still will repair overhead projectors that you deliver to use through the REMC delivery service by June 15, 2008. After that, we encourage you to explore other options. We understand, though cannot make an endorsement ourselves, that Bridges AV in Marcellus has been used by several schools in Kalamazoo county with success. Their contact is (800) 772-8228 or bridgesav@aol.com.

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REMC Bid Book - \$ave Project – 2008 Changes

The online and print catalogs look different! The online catalog has an additional level of detail in the product category list on the left side. This should make it easier to find products, particularly in categories that have many items. Some category names have changed (e.g., toner and ink cartridges are under Printer Supplies). The print catalog is organized following the same order as the online catalog. The table of contents has been updated to reflect these changes.

New Items

- USB Video Camera (RCA Small Wonder)
- Microsoft Zune MP3 Player
- Podcasting Bundle
- Neo and Dana by Alphasmart
- Studio Microphone Bundle
- Self powered speakers with mounting brackets
- Data transfer tool “The Tornado”
- Wireless Interactive tablets
- Desktop Color Scanner
- D-link Wireless Presentation Gateway
- LCD TV/DVD Combination Units
- Flat Panel Mounts
- Suspended ceiling mount
- Keyboard/Mouse Sanitizer
- Electronics Vacuum
- Canon Large Format Printer Supplies
- 8 cm DVD-Rs and DVD-RWs
- CD Clamshell Cases
- VSC Catalog Discount
- Crick Software (Clicker)
- RM Education Software (RM Easiteach)
- Roxio Software
- Tech4Learning Software
- Clay Animation Supplies
- Book Trucks, UPS delivery available
- Interactive Whiteboard Training
- High-end Videoconferencing UnitsChief Mounts Catalog Discount
- Expanded Health & Safety Supplies
- CA-60 Folder

Expanded Categories

- Tech Smith
- Interactive Whiteboards
- Flash Drives
- External Hard Drives

Students Get Connected

In honor of March is Reading Month, the Calhoun Intermediate School District is helping students get connected to other students in the country-using two-way interactive video. The interactive program supports the national Read Around the Planet event promoting reading in honor of Dr. Seuss’s birthday on March 2. In its seventh year, the 2008 program will be connecting classrooms between February 25 and March 5 using videoconferencing technology.



Local schools will bring their students to the Calhoun ISD in Marshall where Calhoun ISD will provide conference room space as well as the video conferencing technology. During the last week of February and the first week of March, 13 classrooms will visit the ISD to connect to other classrooms in the country. Students are connecting to Calhoun County students this year from classrooms in: Arizona, Indiana, New York, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas.

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While the use of video conferencing is exciting for the students and their teachers, the purpose of the event is to have students read to each other. During February, teachers of these local classes will be communicating and planning with their partner class to plan what their classrooms will do during their 45 minute interactive connection. On the day of their connection, each class of students will take turns reading to each other as well as asking about each other's community and school.

Connecting kids through video conferencing is being facilitated by Berrien County Intermediate School District through their TWICE association (Two Way Interactive Connections in Education – Michigan's K-12 distance learning association). The activity is sponsored by TWICE and Polycom (video conference equipment vendor), in cooperation with NEA (National Education Association).

<i>Date and Time</i>	<i>Class at CISD</i>	<i>Connecting to</i>
February 27, 1 p.m.	Homer 3 rd Grade	Roseville, MI
February 28, 9 a.m.	Bellevue 2 nd Grade	Beaverton ,MI
February 28, 10:30 a.m.	Homer 2 nd Grade	Houston, TX
February 28, 12 p.m.	Homer 4 th Grade	Dexter, NY
February 28, 1:30 p.m.	Homer Kindergarten	Fort Wayne, IN
February 29, 9 a.m.	Bellevue 4 th Grade	Beaver Falls, NY
February 29, 10:30 a.m.	Homer 3 rd Grade	Trenton, OH
February 29, 12 p.m.	Homer Kindergarten	Rural Hall, NC
February 29, 1:30 p.m.	Homer Kindergarten	Bethpage, NY
March 4, 9 a.m.	Harper Creek 2 nd Grade	Beaver Falls, NY
March 5, 9 a.m.	Pennfield 4 th grade	Fort Wayne, IN
March 5, 10:30 a.m.	Pennfield 5 th grade	Mustang, OK
March 5, 12 p.m.	Pennfield 3 rd grade	Maricopa, AZ

Technology Leadership Council (TLC): TLC meetings are at Calhoun ISD from 12 – 1:30 on March 11 and May 13

Regional Instructional Technology Committee (RITC): RITC meetings are at Calhoun ISD from 10 – 12 on March 11 and May 13

Student Services Connecting Points

Zangle - Did you know?

- SRSD files due to CDOT on March 20, 2008.
- CDOT has done New Year Initialization and you can start 2008/9 scheduling.
- Online payments are available for food service at no additional charge.
- Parents can opt to receive e-mail updates about their child's schools activities; including behavior, grades, attendance, announcements, etc sent to them from Parent connect. Turn this feature on to help keep your parents involved in their child's education.

Zangle Planning meetings are at Calhoun ISD from 8 – 12 on April 3 and June 12

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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.'

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

2008/9 Meeting Dates

		January 15, 2009	
		8:30 – 11:30	Zangle Planning
September 11, 2008		12 – 3	Data Director Key Contacts
8:30 – 11:30	Zangle Planning		
12 – 3	Data Director Key Contacts		
		February 11, 2009	
		1 – 3	Media Council
September 18, 2008		March 11, 2009	
8:30 – 1:30	Fourth Annual Educational Technology Symposium	8:30 – 11:30	Zangle Planning
1:30 – 3:30	Media Council	12 – 3	Data Director Key Contacts
		March 12, 2009	
November 13, 2008		8:30 – 9:30	Blackboard User Group
8:30 – 11:30	Zangle Planning	9:30 – 12	Regional Instructional Technology Committee
12 – 3	Data Director Key Contacts	12 - 1:30	Technology Leadership Council Lunch and Learn
		1:30 - 2:30	Open Meeting for Technology Discussions
November 20, 2008		May 13, 2009	
8:30 – 9:30	Blackboard User Group	1 – 3	Media Council
9:30 – 12	Regional Instructional Technology Committee		
12 – 1:30	Technology Leadership Council Lunch and Learn	May 21, 2009	
1:30 - 2:30	Open Meeting for Technology Discussions	8:30 – 9:30	Blackboard User Group
		9:30 – 12	Regional Instructional Technology Committee
December 10, 2008		12 – 1:30	Technology Leadership Council Lunch and Learn
1 – 3	Media Council	1:30 – 3:30	Data Director Key Contacts
		3:30 – 4:30	Open Meeting for Technology Discussions
January 8, 2009		June 5, 2009	
8:30 - 9:30	Blackboard User Group	8:30 – 11:30	Zangle Planning
9:30 - 12	Regional Instructional Technology Committee		
12 - 1:30	Technology Leadership Council Lunch and Learn		
1:30 - 2:30	Open Meeting for Technology Discussions		

2008 Michigan DataDirector User Conference

April 1-2, 2008

James B. Henry Center for Executive Development - Lansing, Michigan

Session Highlights:

- Implementation Strategies
- Data Importing and Data Integrity
- DataDirector for K-2 Educators
- Intermediate and Advanced Ad Hoc Reporting
- Scanning Options
- Developing Common Assessments
- Programs and Intervention
- Exam Building and Reporting
- Training Options for DataDirector
- Pre-Built Reports in Detail

Schedule:

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

8:00 AM registration and continental breakfast

9:00 AM Conference General Session
Sessions end at 5:30 PM

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

7:30 Continental Breakfast

8:00 Sessions Begin

Conference Concludes at 4:30 PM

****Lunch is provided both days****

Space is limited! Register today!

Deadline to Register: March 15, 2008

Location:

James B. Henry Center for Executive Development
3535 Forest Road
Lansing, MI 48910-3831

Fee: \$225 per person (includes continental breakfast and lunch both days)

Register Online:

<http://www.webmediasolutions.com/achievedata/?type=detail&e=4776&sid=599>

Lodging Information:

Candlewood Suites is holding a block of rooms for conference participants on March 31 and April 1 at a special rate of \$89.00/ \$109.00 (plus tax and fees) per night.

Make your reservations directly with the hotel and ask for the DataDirector User Conference Group Rate.

Candlewood Suites
3545 Forest Road
Lansing, MI 48910
Phone: 1-517-3518181

For more information call (877) 993-2633.



Because all REMC products, including catalog discounts, are competitively bid in accordance with the State of Michigan bidding law and standards, schools can purchase complete solutions without further bidding, saving time and money!



REMC \$AVE Bid Project can Stretch Your Technology Dollars!

Computer & Network Electronics

- Tablet PC's
- Thin Clients
- VoIP
- Wireless Networking
- KVM Switches
- Console Servers
- Network Storage, Racks & Enclosures
- Many Catalog Discounts Available

Computer Bundles & Peripherals

- Desktop & Notebook Computers
- CPU & Monitor Packages
- File servers
- Routers, Switches & Hubs

Software

- Adobe/Macromedia
- Microsoft
- Symantec
- Network Solutions
- Sophos and many more....

REMC Suppliers

- ✓ 3Com
- ✓ Adobe / Ed Resources
- ✓ APC
- ✓ Cisco
- ✓ Dyntek
- ✓ Foundry Networks
- ✓ Hewlett Packard
- ✓ JEM Computers
- ✓ Lenovo
- ✓ Gateway
- ✓ Microsoft / CDW-G
- ✓ Raritan PC
- ✓ Sehi Computer Products
- Many Catalog Discounts*



COMING SOON!

New Contract for Computer & Network Electronics

Effective July 1, 2008!

REMC Value-Added Services & Benefits

REMC Statewide School Aggregated Volume for Education (\$AVE) Bid Project provides effective cost savings through statewide cooperative services which allows local resources to be reallocated to enhance teaching and learning.

- REMC Product Searching / Online Catalog
- REMC Vendor Profiles & Online Resources
- Product Buying Guides & Selection Tools
- REMC Feedback Link / Customer Service & Support

In 2006 REMC \$AVE Bid Project has helped save Michigan schools \$25.6 million and more than \$308 million since 1990. STOP, LEARN & GO REMC!

How do I Place an Order?

Log onto <http://remcbid.org> and follow the 4 Steps below to \$AVE!

