



North Carolina Best Practices in Instructional Media and Technology

Everybody could use a little TLC (Technology Leadership Conference)

- LEA:** Davidson County Schools
- Region:** North West Region
- Level:** District
- Type:** Administrative
- Contact:** Director of Media Services and Instructional Technology:
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District and school based administrators often don't have the time to attend Technology conferences where they would learn about new and exciting trends in technology. So Davidson County Schools took a different approach.....they brought the conference to the administrators.

On October 17 and 18, 150 Davidson County School district administrators, school administrators, Instructional Technology Facilitators, media coordinators, technology assistants, and teachers gathered at Davidson County Community College for a two-day Technology Leadership Conference featuring keynote speaker David Warlick.

Breakout sessions, which were presented by teachers, vendors, and other presenters, covered a range of topics from blogs, to podcasting, Claymation, probes, Geocaching, and copyright.

Response to the conference was overwhelming and plans are already in motion for next year's conference.



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Literacy: A Family Affair

- LEA:** Surry County Schools
- Region:** North West Region
- Level:** School
- Type:** Media Center and Literacy
- Contact:** Media Specialist Janet Dorsett email: dorsettja@surry.k12.nc.us
J. Sam Gentry Middle School

The J. Sam Gentry Middle School Media Center annually hosts a Family Literacy Night. Coordinated by Janet Dorsett, media coordinator, and Linda Warren, media assistant, an evening of activities is offered to students and their families to emphasize the importance of reading and technology. The event, held in October, includes an array of activities and entertains hundreds of participants. The media staff and administrators promote Family Literacy Night with ConnectEd, letters to parents, local newspaper articles, written invitations, and school marquee advertisements. The two-hour event features a Book Fair, Book-Giveaway, a local Appalachian storyteller and guitarist, puppet show on Jack Tales for the pre-school children, computer games at the media center's computer lab, demonstrations on the media center's Smart Board and multi-media cart, and a mini workshop on recommended web sites. The media staff utilizes the assistance of parent volunteers and students of the Battle of Books team. Parents make autumn displays for the media center and bulletin board displays. Volunteer teachers assist with the PowerPoint presentations and computer lab activities.

The highlight of the evening has always been the Book-Giveaway. With monetary contributions from the Booster Club and local businesses, the media staff each year purchases approximately \$1,000.00 worth of books for pre-school children, middle school students, and adults. Each person who attends the Family Literacy Night chooses a free book to take home. This very successful Book-Giveaway has put hundreds of books in the hands of students and their families so that the whole family may read together. Through the Family Literacy Night, the media staff and administrators strive to promote family reading and good technology resource practices.



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School Media Programs and Literacy

LEA: Asheboro City Schools
Region: North Central Region
Level: School
Type: Instructional
Contact: Instructional technology lead teacher: Marty Williams
School-level Contact: Kellie J. Garcia

Many factors are considered when developing instruction for the K-5 school library media program:

- Guidance from IMPACT
- Need to collaborate
- Mandates from No Child Left Behind
- System-level focus on literacy
- Curriculum
- Levels and needs of students

With all of this in mind, Kellie Garcia, media coordinator at Guy B. Teachey Elementary School, planned a lesson with fifth grade teachers who are in the first year of implementing the Balanced Literacy program in their classrooms. The teachers determined that their students needed instruction related to the text features that readers often encounter, especially in nonfiction books. Adapting a lesson idea from *Stretchy Library Lessons: More Library Skills* by Pat Miller, Kellie prepared a text features scavenger hunt lesson. During whole group instruction, each text feature was discussed and examples were shown. Before beginning the scavenger hunt, they also talked about making wise choices when searching for features. For example, a timeline would probably be found in biography or history and maps would be found in atlas, travel books, etc. Then the students went on a scavenger hunt through the nonfiction and reference sections of the media center to find an example of their assigned feature. As a culmination activity, they discussed the text features that seemed to be used most often- (index, table of contents, photographs and captions) and also the ones that were more difficult to find during the scavenger hunt. The students decided that they were very thankful for the various text features because reading with just text alone would not be as interesting or comprehensible. Finally, the students created one page per text feature which had the text feature term, its definition, and an example to form a booklet for future reference.

While our school library media programs have always been about literacy, the increased emphasis on literacy in our schools as a whole, presents a great opportunity for collaboration. Reading aloud, reader's advisory, genre study, approach to reading nonfiction and identification of text features are some of the components of the Balanced Literacy program that have long been hallmarks of an effective school library media program. As media coordinator, we are natural partners in helping students and teachers achieve reading goals.