Friday Focus

Carter County Schools

February Happenings

- **Feb. 8 East End Academy**

- **Feb. 9 Writing Club**

- **Feb. 15 PD Day**

- **Feb. 17 West End Academy**

- **Feb. 18 Math Club**

- **Feb. 23 Writing Club**

CHECK OUT THESE LINKS!

[Photos for Class](#)

[The Learning Network](#)

[Buncee Presentation Maker](#)

[Canva--Graphic Design](#)

[Zaption Videos](#)

**Thank you Deidra Bowling-Meade and Nickie Blackburn for the awesome links this week!

Student Use of Technology

Allowing a student to use technology in projects creates more authentic learning and keeps a student engaged in the development of his idea. Jan Gahala of The North Central Regional Education Library explains that children can use Prezi, create websites, send email, become bloggers, and take part in teleconferencing to expand the world of learning. Knowing that others will see the final product, whether it be through a video chat with another school or a website, will make the student care more deeply about the final product.

In using technology, a student will not need the teacher to directly instruct her on each new piece of material. She will learn as she researches, and often may stumble upon a path that the teacher had not intended. Jan Galaha suggests that a strong, technology-oriented classroom has a teacher who acts as facilitator, not lecturer. She also asserts that using technology will breed more cooperative learning, since the teacher takes a step back and does not act as the sole adviser to the learning process. This in turn will reduce behavioral problems, since the student will be more on task.

If used effectively, teachers can use technology to teach research skills to students of all ages. While a younger student can view author websites to learn about books, an older student can be taught how to search appropriately on various search engines. High school and middle school students can learn how to differentiate strong research sites from weak ones and become comfortable with citing websites in projects and papers.

Technology is used every day in most jobs. Therefore, it is prudent to teach students to be comfortable with various software and Internet applications in a classroom setting. The George Lucas Educational Foundation explains that while project-based learning encourages cooperation and on-task behavior, the use of technology in group learning allows a student to see what a "modern office" looks like. Researching, synthesizing the copious available information, presenting it in an organized, analytical format and receiving feedback are all skills that pertain to the career world.

Technology can help better train students for their future careers as well as vastly increase their access to information. Using technology in the classroom is beneficial for teaching research strategies and how to use software tools as well as broadening the scope of material available to students while improving student motivation and decreasing poor behavior. The percentage of students using technology for personal use increases every year and teachers can easily take advantage of this trend by incorporating the student use of technology into daily lessons.