

techtimes@edbqhs



News You Can Use

BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN!

District & School Web Pages are up, running and better than ever.

If you haven't had a chance to see our school web pages (<http://www.edbqhs.org/>) lately, you'd better look soon. After all the trouble we have had with the school site maintaining a reliable presence, things are really taking shape.

Our school webmasters, Mr. McLane, Ms. Stierman and Mrs. McPhail, have completely rebuilt the school site (again) and have made it even more useful than before. Thanks guys for all your hard work.

On the district page you can find a variety of information that is useful to you, your classroom and your students.

As you know, any web page is only as good as the information that is listed. Web sites are content driven! So let's take a tour of what's available.

On the district page, you will find links to both schools as well as to some community sites. Links to the Illinois Interactive Report Card as well

as ISBE's School Report Card can be accessed as well.

The High School Page has a good number of forms frequently used by students as well as course descriptions, bell schedules, school calendar, athletic schedules (with driving directions to events), teacher forms and the staff directory.

The staff directory provides teachers with the opportunity to create a classroom website. Several teachers have already created a classroom presence and use their sites in daily instruction.

Remember, websites are content driven. Let us know what should be added. We need your ideas *as well as your content* to help keep our school web site useful!

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT:

"Teachers are people who start things they never see finished, and for which they never get thanks until it is too late."

-----Max Forman

WEB RESOURCES:

What is a Wiki?

Ever heard of a Wiki before? If not, you will soon. A Wiki is a collaborative web site that allows anyone to edit, delete or modify content. Wiki sites allow users to freely create and edit Web page content using any Web browser. *Wiki wiki* means "quick" in Hawaiian. The first

Wiki was created by Ward Cunningham in 1995.

Wikipedia

(<http://www.wikipedia.org/>) is the best known open-source, freely licensed encyclopedia project. Wikipedia allows users to write, edit, and expand upon encyclopedia entries to create a collaborative, free-to-use online information resource. Take a look.

The Wikimedia Foundation--the group, who developed Wikipedia, --has begun a similar initiative for textbooks.

Wikibooks

(http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main_Page) invites users to collaboratively write and edit freely licensed, online K-20 textbooks and related nonfiction, such as literary criticism, for all subjects.

Volunteers have written around **11,939** book modules in a multitude of books since the startup date back in June, 2003.

The hope is that Wikibooks will complement the traditional market for textbooks. With the demands of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), teachers will need to be careful when using open-source materials, but for non-core courses (music, computer science, areas where you don't have to teach to the test), Wikibooks could be considered as a classroom resource.

Remember, if you need any assistance- let me know (jambrosia@edbqhs.org). "Till next time... *Joe Ambrosia*