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Special points of interest:

- **Podcasting**
- **RICE/ICE Membership information**
- **2007 Products**
- **Podcast for special needs**
- **Chicago Tech forum**

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Podcasting in Education

A new way to inspire learning

Podcasting offers an ideal tool for the creative expression of knowledge preferred by today's students, and provides an exciting way for students and educators to explore and discover educational content. Podcasts are audio or video files that are automatically delivered over a network, then played back on any Mac, PC, or iPod. When students create a podcast for class, they not only learn the content in a creative way, they learn 21st-century communications skills at the same time.

Create. Communicate. Share.

Podcasting allows educators to take their students beyond traditional assignments by allowing them to include voice recordings, photos, movies, and sound effects to share their knowledge. For example, students can draft and perform scripts as a writing assignment, create a visual progress report for an ongoing project, or submit a recorded version of a science presentation.

Podcasting is also a great way for educators to deliver content to their students. They can distribute homework assignments, record book narration for beginning readers to read along with, or create foreign language lessons that students can review at their own pace. For educators and administrators, podcasting is an effective tool for professional development, as well as for communicating with parents about classroom activities and school announcements.

Podcasting made simple

Every new Mac comes with iLife '08—Apple's award-winning suite of digital authoring applications featuring the latest versions of iPhoto, iMovie, GarageBand, iWeb, and iDVD. With GarageBand, it's incredibly easy to create a podcast complete with photos, presentation slides, sound effects, music, and more. GarageBand even automatically lowers the volume of background music when someone begins speaking. And with the Mac computer's built-in microphone and iSight camera, students have everything they need to record and produce podcasts right out of the box.

*This information may be found at:
<http://www.apple.com/education/digitalauthoring/podcasting.html>

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Podcasting in Education continued...

Schools can host and distribute their own podcasts with [Podcast Producer](#)—part of Mac OS X Leopard Server which is included with every Apple server. Podcast Producer is a fully automated approach to encoding, publishing, and distributing high-quality podcasts. Podcasts can be published to a website, blog, or iTunes and can be distributed to any Mac, PC, or iPod on a school's network.

Thousands of educational podcasts available

The iTunes Store includes over 10,000 podcasts specific for education. Podcasts are available for most subject areas and grade levels, as well as for professional development. Students and teachers can use iTunes on a Mac or PC to search, subscribe, and listen to podcasts, and even sync them to an iPod for studying and learning on the go.

Many educators and institutions are already integrating [podcasting](#) successfully into their curricula — with great results. Podcasting enables educators to use music and recorded audio to enhance learning. The addition of photos and video to podcasting allows educators to add a wide range of visual content to their teaching and address even more learning styles.

Resources for Podcasting

www.atomiclearning.com

ISTE Podcasting

Garage Band

iTunes

www.podcasting-tools.com

[www.widgetpress.com/products?
product=wpc&action=overview](http://www.widgetpress.com/products?product=wpc&action=overview)

www.apple.com

www.allwebco-templates.com/support/S_podcast.htm

There really are so many resources out there for Podcasting. Just type the word “podcasting” in your search box on the internet and you will find software, discussion forums, books, and much much more.

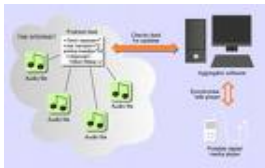


“Students and teachers can use iTunes on a Mac or PC to search, subscribe, and listen to podcasts, and even sync them to an iPod for studying and learning on the go.”





“ These folks described how they were leveraging student enthusiasm for podcasting to revolutionize morning announcements.”



What has Podcasting Done for You?: Great things often happen in Small Ways

A few weeks ago, I spent the day in residency in a small school doing purposeful podcasting with seventh-grade teachers and kids. We were using a model I call professional development for kids, where we cut out the middleman (or - woman) and deliver the tools right to the kids and teachers at the same time.

It was a great day, built around recording news articles about the school community, and the ability of podcasting to support literacy achievement was made crystal clear to all involved. Kids were reading scripts over a dozen times to get it right before the cry of “Quiet on the set! Recording in three . . . two . . .” would ring out once again.

Then, last Friday, I happened to be facilitating a meeting where the principal and the technology coordinator/integrator were participants. As the group was sharing how technology was being used effectively in their schools, these folks described how they were leveraging student enthusiasm for podcasting to revolutionize morning announcements, increase student engagement, and improve literacy at a deep level.

For the last year or more, the principal had been reading a presentation he calls “Words of Wisdom” at the end of the morning announcements each day. They were powerful words, but, in all candor, the sad truth is that because it was the same voice reading them five days a week, the kids had sort of learned to tune it out. The good news is that it turns out that high-quality text, fresh voices, fluency, the ability to read with voice, and the requisite skills and tools to podcast were the pieces that provided a solution.

Now, every day, a “Words of Wisdom” podcast, independently created by one of the seventh graders, is featured at the end of the morning announcements -- and, yes, every student is participating! Think about it: Kids who just a couple weeks ago were tuning them out are now spending significant amounts of time reading, understanding, rereading, reflecting on, and ultimately recording the words of Mahatma Gandhi, Winston Churchill, Eleanor Roosevelt, and others, along with a pithy moral. They are thinking about how to modulate and pace their voices, how to read in tune with the words so as to make their recording engaging and meaningful, entertaining and instructive, popular and purposeful. Wow!

Sure, it’s a small beginning, but it is so powerful. The visibility both as part of the announcements and on the school’s Web site make it clear that from here on out, digital tools are part of how this school does business. Who knows what will come next?

Oh, and if you hear, in about twelve years or so, of a young reporter on CNN, a fellow named Dylan who hails from Allenstown, New Hampshire, you’ll know where he got some of his first broadcast experience!

So, how has podcasting made a mark in your classroom, or in your school? I look forward to hearing from you and picking up some more simply great ideas. Thanks in advance for sharing.

iPod Helps Special-Needs Students Make the Grade Profiles in Success: Louisa-Muscatine Elementary School

Letts, IA — On test days, Louisa-Muscatine third-grader Samantha used to have a pretty tough time. A Special Education student, she needed the services of an onsite paraprofessional to read the questions aloud to her, in an entirely different classroom. Now Samantha can grab an iPod, put on her headphones, scroll through the menu to find her test, and get to work. By listening to the test questions as she sees them on the iPod screen and on her paper, Samantha and several of the school's other students with special needs are beginning to work more independently. At the same time they've increased their self-esteem, and have found a way to join the mainstream of education.

Located in rural eastern Iowa, Louisa-Muscatine (L-M) Elementary School serves over 500 students from four different towns and cities. In the past several years, the school district has invested more than \$70,000 annually in its technology infrastructure. With the October 2005 announcement of the iPod with video capabilities, L-M Principal Scott Grimes and his staff glimpsed the potential to connect with learning-challenged students in exciting new ways.

"We had applied for a state grant for technology, and were brainstorming ideas for using podcasts and our new wireless network," Grimes recalls. "While talking to the folks at Apple about things we could do with the new iPod, we realized we could use them to read tests to our Special Ed kids. It was definitely a timing thing, where the idea and the technology came together simultaneously."

- **iPod Helps Special-Needs Students Make the Grade**
 - [Visual, Audio Prompts Make Learning Connections](#)
 - [Teachers Now Free to Monitor Students' Progress](#)

ICE/RICE Membership Benefits

Membership to Illinois Computing Educators includes many benefits to meet your vast and varied technology needs. Members enjoy several types of benefits including the following: web services, scholarships and awards, local chapters, and professional development. Visit the ICE webpages for more information (www.iceberg.org)

Professional Development and Experiences

Most of you are aware of Atomic Learning (www.atomiclearning.com) where you have access to "just in time; anytime/anyplace" learning modules on software, hardware, and integration strategies. Monthly passwords are mailed out to everyone at the beginning of each month.



Objectives

- "Enable learning-challenged students to take tests independently
- Free teachers and staff to focus on students' progress
- Encourage integration of students into mainstream classrooms"





RICE Information

"Illinois Technology Conference for Educators occurs every February at Pheasant Run in St. Charles, Illinois. Over a 100 national vendors displaying products and offering more than 250 breakout sessions."



Next RICE Meeting April 16, 2008 at ROE Moline

ICE/RICE Membership Benefits (cont)

STAR Online (www.star-online.org) has over 50 modules in a virtual teaching and learning community. It is an interactive, self-paced staff development model, which allows participants to gain knowledge and skills in the application of educational technology. Email the ICE office for your access password (info@iceberg.org).

Illinois Technology Conference for Educators (IL-TCE) occurs every February at Pheasant Run in St. Charles, Illinois (www.il-tce.org). There are two days of pre-conference intense training workshops on a variety of technology topics, followed by two full days of the conference. We have over a hundred national vendors displaying their products and offer more than 250 breakout sessions, with leading innovators in technology as our keynote speakers. CPDUs are available.

ICECube is our quarterly newsletter of professional articles about technology in education. Written by leaders in the field throughout the state and beyond, information is provided to enrich your experiences and knowledge. All members are encouraged to contribute to our newsletter.

TECH2008 is a student technology showcase that continues to impress state legislators and their constituents from year to year. For the past sixteen years, public policymakers from around the state have banded together to promote the most comprehensive and diverse demonstration of classroom technology in the Midwest by those who use these technologies on a daily basis -- students and teachers.

The "Collaboratory in Your Classroom" eCourse is for educators who want to use the Collaboratory to develop technology enriched, standards-aligned, project-based learning activities for their students that meet Illinois Learning Standards and Goals. Librarians, media specialists, and technology facilitators who are collaborating with classroom teachers attending the Collaboratory online class are encouraged to participate. The eCourse is free, and Illinois participants may receive 15 CPDUs for completing this class.

<http://collaboratory.nunet.net>

Web Services

ICE provides to its members free email, 5 MB of server space to post personal or classroom web pages, and FTP access to personal documents on the server. Contact info@iceberg.org for more information.

Scholarships

Ice provides annual scholarships to its members and families given in the following categories:

- ICE members pursuing advanced degrees
- ICE members attending professional development workshops and conferences,
- ICE members taking online classes

ICE members' children pursuing a degree in Education



*"Buy the book
Handhelds for
Teachers and
Administrators
for step-by-
step guides to
consuming
and producing
podcasts!"*



Podcasting

Putting audio and video on the web is not a new concept. However, in September 2004 a new way of cataloging and downloading audio and video programs emerged. It's called podcasting. A podcast has a news feed (known as RSS) that allows it to be cataloged in various podcasting directories like iTunes and Yahoo! The popular directory, Podcast Alley, has cataloged over 29,000 podcasts and well over 1 million individual episodes. If you are interested in listening to the podcasts mentioned here, launch iTunes and type the name into the search field.

In addition, the news feed allows podcatching programs like iTunes to automatically download new episodes. Once you have found the podcast you want to subscribe to, simply click its Subscribe button. There's no need to manually check a website to see if there's new content; iTunes does it for you. Play the episodes in iTunes on your Mac or PC. To listen or watch on a mobile device, connect a handheld to your computer and copy the file to the device. Palm handheld and Pocket PCs with WiFi connectivity can even download podcasts directly from the Internet using software like QuickNews and PocketRSS

There are three kinds of podcasts. Audio podcasts are usually an MP3 file and are the most common types of podcasts. Enhanced podcasts can have images to go along with the audio. They can also have chapter markers, making it easier to skip to different portions of an episode. Enhanced podcasts are an AAC file and are not supported by all devices. Video podcasts are movies, complete with sound. Video podcasts can be in a variety of formats, but MPEG-4 is the most popular.

In most classrooms the teacher will find podcast episodes for students to listen to or watch. Sets of laptops, iPods, Palm handhelds, Pocket PCs, or other devices can be loaded with podcast episodes so students can use them at their desks, on field trips, in the library, or at home.

Creating podcasts has many educational benefits. Students are able to create a product to share with a potentially world-wide audience. Their podcast can be listed in iTunes, right along with podcasts from the Discovery Channel, Disney, and NPR. Knowing that there is a real-world audience gives students purpose and motivation to create a spectacular product. The process of putting together an audio recording is extremely valuable and is certainly a cross-curricular experience.

Remember, you don't need an iPod or handheld to be a part of podcasting-you can listen right from your web browser. Whatever personal device you may use to listen to podcasts, learning is certainly in hand!

Information Page



Tech Forum Chicago

The Tech Forum Chicago (Midwest) Conference will take place on Friday, April 25, 2008 at the Marriott Hickory Ridge Conference Hotel in Lisle, Illinois. A discount of \$185 per person is available to all ICE Members whose memberships are current. If you are interested in attending please, contact [ICE](#).



“PowerIT serves K-12 Schools and districts, providing, reliable, affordable, and innovative technology solutions particularly in the area of communications management.”

