Presentation to World Language Faculty at Providence High School

Artifacts:  
http://www.slideshare.net/debmonroy/presentation-highschool-teachers

Livebinder – Coursework:  http://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=941771

Livebinder - Spanish: http://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=1249422

Livebinder – Spanish 1: http://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=1599945

(Note: PDFs made on a Mac do not retain links unless hyperlink and link script are identical. Discussion boards are very active on the subject.)

Description

This was a simple presentation written to help teachers solve some common classroom issues that are time-consuming. The presentation was allocated a short time period and so needed to be concise and immediately helpful. Many of the teachers are quite intimidated by using technology in their classrooms, so I picked some simple applications that could make life easier and encourage teachers to experiment and “dip their toes” into technology.

Impact

Teachers were pleased with the ideas I presented. The “Grade It” application is particularly useful and easy to use and many of my colleagues have adopted it. It is an app that can be downloaded to phones. It simply allows teachers to enter the number of questions on a quiz and then produces a chart to show the grade out of 100. Its simplicity and accessibility is a wonderful use of technology to help teachers with one of the small tasks that can take much time out of a day.

Teachers were less eager to use the “Pick Me” app as it does involve entering student names on a spreadsheet and uploading prior to use. One colleague I introduced to it has found it extremely useful. She teaches in another school and is required to have documentation of class participation. I feel that this requirement is heading our way and it also helps take away any potential claims by students or parents that the measurement of participation is subjective rather than data-based.

I have used “LiveBinders” in coursework when I was required to give discussion participants useful resources for the item under discussion. I subsequently created a LiveBinder of resources for higher-level Spanish. This was the binder I used as an example in my presentation. This binder was created and embedded as a resource in the Spanish IV course I taught for North Carolina Virtual Public Schools in the spring of 2014. I subsequently shared it with two of the Professors of Spanish at the University of Akron and gave editing rights so that they could add to it. I suggested that it be shared with the rest of the faculty and/or with
students as a useful resource. I explained to my colleagues that this resource was very simple to set up and had the huge advantage of storing useful websites in an organized manner and being easy to navigate as it is attractive and the graphics help users remember sites. Subsequent to this, I made a new site for lower-level Spanish and invited my colleagues to add their own favorite websites. My colleagues have used the Binder but have not contributed.

Intent

I will continue to encourage colleagues to share resources and will seek out other teachers from other schools in my district to work on the lower-level Spanish binder. As I wrote this reflection, I realized that I could also embed it in the SpringBoard page I created for the faculty of the Modern Languages Department. I have now embedded it so that the resource is readily available.

I have learned from this presentation that it is easy to have colleagues make nice remarks about presentations but much less easy to get new resources used. That requires gentle reminders and constant support. This I will continue to give and intend to give further short, snappy presentations to my time-strapped colleagues in attempt to keep us all moving in the direction of instructional efficiency and excellence.