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ALTEC News

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10 things to do at 4Teachers.org over the summer

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When designed correctly, a newsletter provides specialized information to a targeted audience. The school year is very hectic with before and after school projects and activities. There just isn't a lot of spare time to learn to use new technologies, find new resources on the Web, or even learn to use some of the great timesaving online tools that are out there.

4Teachers.org is committed to finding ways to help teachers save time by creating valuable tools that are user-friendly and timesaving. Here are some of the technologies that you can learn to use this summer to help you get a running start on the upcoming school year.

Create a rubric – Learn to use RubiStar

Rubrics are a great way to set specific guidelines for students to follow during a project. The problem is that creating rubrics is time-consuming and tedious. Fortunately, RubiStar is a *free* resource that allows teachers to create high-quality rubrics in a matter of minutes. The rubrics are printable, available in both English and Spanish, and easily stored online in your personal account.

How does this work? First you choose a rubric from more than 50 rubric templates over a wide variety of topics. Then you customize it just as you would a Word document, changing any topic, word, or guideline that doesn't meet your requirements. You can then save it online and access or print it at any time. RubiStar is also a searchable database of more than 100,000 rubrics that have already been created. This is a great way to find project ideas over almost any subject. Visit <http://rubistar.4teachers.org> to get started.

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Create an online quiz – Learn to use QuizStar

Thousands of teachers are using QuizStar to manage classes and quizzes online, add multimedia files to questions, and make quizzes in multiple languages. Being able to add graphics, audio, and video to quiz questions helps reinforce subject matter for students and gives teachers the flexibility they need to create any kind of quiz. QuizStar allows teachers to analyze quiz results, find common areas where students need additional review, and print reports in multiple formats.

Try QuizStar for free over the summer using QuizStar's 60 day trial. Set up your classes, create your quizzes and try them out in the fall. The great thing about the free trial is we don't erase your information, so you are able to subscribe at any time after you create your account and quizzes. Just login with the same account information and subscribe! If you like QuizStar you can subscribe for as little as \$24.98 for six months or \$39.00 for a full year. There are even group rates that allow teachers to enjoy savings of up to 25 percent for a yearly subscription.

What instructors are saying about QuizStar:

"I've been using QuizStar for 7-8 years and it has changed the way I approach the courses I teach. I love your site." -Paul J. Birdsall, Jr. high teacher

Create an online lesson – Learn to use TrackStar with TrackPack



TrackStar is an extremely popular resource that thousands of teachers use each month to create online lessons. You begin by creating a free account. Then you collect a list of sites you would like your students to explore, write annotations for each site, and students can then access it online at any time. TrackStar also has a feature called TrackPack. TrackPack allows you to add an icon to your browser that you can click on when you are searching the Web. TrackPack allows you to save sites to your TrackStar account that you can use later to create Tracks (online lessons).

Here is what teachers are saying about TrackStar:

"TrackStar is an invaluable resource that helps my students stay focused on their assignments. The frames format of the lesson keeps them from getting distracted on the Internet. I thought I would need to learn html to create an online lesson. With TrackStar, I can create a lesson in minutes using Web sites I already have bookmarked on my browser." Mrs. Kendall, high school teacher.

Create a calendar using Assign-A-Day

Assign-A-Day was designed to improve teacher-student communication by allowing teachers to create class calendars to post assignments and class activities online. Students can access the calendar from any Internet-connected computer. Students who miss class or who would like to look ahead to see upcoming projects can do so at any time by simply typing in their teacher's last name, calendar ID, or subject. Summer is a great time to create your calendars and plan ahead for the upcoming school year.



Assign-A-Day makes communicating with your students a breeze!

Create an online project page – Learn to use Web Poster Wizard

Web Poster Wizard is a great way for teachers to create online Webquests, worksheets, class pages, lessons, and projects complete with links and graphics. It's an easy way to provide students with links and guidelines they need for research to complete papers and projects or to post class news and information. There is a separate place for students to create their own project posters and post their projects or assignments online. Web Poster Wizard has recently been updated to include features such as a central login for students and teachers, ability to create an archive page of student projects, and the ability for teachers to access student and teacher information from one account. Complete your project pages and worksheets this summer using Web Poster Wizard.

Help students learn to organize their online research – Learn to use NoteStar

NoteStar allows teachers to manage students' online research for papers and projects. Teachers can use NoteStar to track student progress, send messages to students, check sources, and help students organize their online research in the appropriate format. It's simple to use and an efficient way to manage student projects. Go to NoteStar and register for free to get started.

Create awards and certificates online – Learn to use CasaNotes

CasaNotes allows you to create printable awards and certificates in both English and Spanish, complete with graphics and customizable content. Create field trip permissions, parent-teacher conference notices, student progress reports, student contracts, awards, and

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Discover educational games – Arcademic Skill Builders

Teachers all over the world are discovering the benefits of teaching basic math and language arts skills using Arcademic Skill Builders. Students are highly motivated to learn and improve in a game environment and teachers are finding higher test scores and enthusiasm for learning using online educational games. Arcademic Skill Builders are research-based and standards-aligned. Visit Arcademic Skill Builders and read teacher success stories. You'll want to make Arcademic Skill Builders a part of your instruction next year.

Take a class!

ALTEC's staff of professional development providers has more than 20 years of experience providing professional development to K-12 teachers over a wide variety of hardware and software. We are trained to provide teachers with effective ways to integrate technology into the classroom immediately. Professional development options are available onsite and through video conferencing so there is an option for every school budget. Feel free to contact us at 785 864-0699 and speak to one of our trainers to develop a custom training that's right for your school.

Watch great video tutorials on our ALTEC Video page

ALTEC has created short video tutorials about RubiStar, QuizStar, Inspiration, Video in the Classroom, video conferencing, Technology Rich Classrooms program and more! Visit 4Teachers.org and start learning!

Find great new online resources

4Teachers.org has more than 1,000 links to resources for professional development, assessment, special needs, bilingual needs, and general curriculum resources. We've done the research for you and resources are organized by subject and archived. We post a new site each week and have a section called Educator Resources that contains links to high-quality resources that are sure to meet your needs.

All of the resources and tools discussed above are available at 4Teachers.org. Whether you try one of our suggestions or all 10 you are sure to find some timesaving resources this summer that will be of value for you during the upcoming school year.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As you may know, the 4Teachers.org online resources were developed with money from a U.S. Department of Education grant that began in 1995 and continued until 2005. Since funding ended in 2005 we have been working on ways to keep the 4Teachers resources operating smoothly and, just as important, updated to meet the needs of 21st century users.

You can pledge your tax-deductible donation of \$10, \$25, or more through the University of Kansas Endowment Association. When you donate, you can choose to support a specific 4Teachers tool, or your gift can work to improve all of the 4Teachers resources.

Please visit the 4Teachers Support page at <http://4teachers.org/support> for more information. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to make the 4Teachers tools the most valuable resources they can be.



Conference Calendar

Meet ALTEC Staff at these Upcoming Conferences!

NECC 2009

National Educational Computing Conference

Date: June 28-July 1, 2009

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

Web site:

<http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2009>

SUMMER MACE 2009

Homegrown Visionaries Shaping the Future

Date: July 23-24, 2009

Location: Wichita State University Metroplex, Wichita, KS

Web site: <http://www.mace-ks.org/>

MITC 2009

MORENet Instructional Technology Conference

Date: October 18-20, 2009

Location: Tan Tar A Resort, Osage Beach, MO

Web site:

<http://www.more.net/conferences/mitc/>

2009 T+L Conference

Technology and Learning Conference

Date: October 28-30, 2009

Location: Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO

Web site: <http://www.nsba.org/tl/>

ALTEC PROVIDES SERVICES TO SUPPORT YOUR EXISTING PROJECTS

If you have an existing or proposed project, ALTEC can develop and host your Web site, support your online community with discussion boards, set up your video conference, or custom design a software application to meet your needs. Propose stronger projects and programs using ALTEC's over 15 years of expertise in educational technology, special needs, professional development, and evaluation. Please call us at 785 864 0699 to set up a free consultation. We're happy to assist you with all your technology needs.

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