Greetings, colleagues! We hope that you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you of recent happenings in the middle school computer lab. We also hope to call your attention to resources that may help you in your teaching endeavors. You will also find a copy of this year’s lab schedule attached to this newsletter. Please hang on to this information for future reference.

Thanks,
Lucy Gray and Marty Billingsley

Welcome Back to School!

Computer Lab Rules for Middle School Students

It would be very helpful if you could review the computer lab rules with your students. Our basic rules are as follows:

1) Recreational computing (game playing and web surfing) is not allowed during the school day – this includes before school, lunchtime, tutorial, and break! The sole exception is during Activity period.

2) Students may read email only before school, break, and lunch or during activity period, not during class periods or during tutorial.

3) If there is a class going on in UH 203, please do not interrupt. Consult the schedule posted on the door if you are unsure.

4) No food, candy, gum or drink is allowed in the computer lab.

Additionally, we advise you to be aware of where your students are working when you send them to the computer lab. Middle school students should use the middle school lab if it is available. If it is not available, they can ask Mr. Haskell for access to the high school lab.
Suggestions for Teachers

As you can tell from the attached schedules, the middle school computer lab is a very busy place. We ask you to take into consideration our teaching schedule when you enter our lab.

Also, please pick up your printouts in between classes or during times when activities are more loosely structured such as Activity period. Our lab is not as open as the high school lab, and we prefer a minimum of traffic when we are holding classes.

Also, sometimes it can be difficult for us to troubleshoot problems for you or have in depth discussions when we have classes that need our attention. If you need help, we would be more than happy to meet with you during our supervisory or planning time. Advanced notice would also be very helpful.

As usual, the computer schedule is posted in UH 203. Please use this schedule to sign up to use the lab. Make sure you plan in advance in order to get the time slots that you want.

Thanks for helping us to run the lab more efficiently!

Middle School Lab Equipment

We are fortunate to have received a stationary projector to use in the MS lab. It has a remote control and our screen has been moved to accommodate the projector. This should facilitate teacher modeling of computer applications. Teachers who schedule classes in the UH 203 lab are welcome to use this very handy device. Stop by sometime to get an informal lesson on how to use it.

Because of this new equipment, the mobile projector/computer cart will no longer be stored in UH 203. Contact Scott Griffin at orders@vertex.ucls.uchicago.edu about checking out the cart.

Currently, we do not handle the checkout of digital video cameras. Michele Hahney (4-1870) is in charge of such equipment. We do, however, have one digital still camera that can be loaned to faculty members. We just ask that you supply the necessary disks for this camera.

Check Out Trends in Ed Tech at CNN.com

CNN has developed an interesting interactive site heralding the back to school season. Visit http://fyi.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2002/back_to_school/ for an in-depth look at how other schools are embracing technology.

Specific examples are given of how students and teachers are using equipment to enhance teaching and learning. It’s a brief, but informative, look at how technology is changing the face of education.
### Noteworthy Tech Opportunities

- Join a special online Social Studies forum with Ken Burns, creator of “The Civil War” on September 12. Details are available at [www.tappedin.org](http://www.tappedin.org), a professional development online community.
- The U.S State Department is sponsoring international online classroom projects with former Soviet republics. The project website is [www.projectharmony.org/ac2k/rec2002.html](http://www.projectharmony.org/ac2k/rec2002.html).
- Consider joining a professional listserv this year. Classroom Connect offers several in different subject areas. Listservs are great ways to network with other educators. For more details, visit [www.classroom.com/community/email](http://www.classroom.com/community/email). If this link doesn't work, try [www.classroom.com/community](http://www.classroom.com/community).

### Back to School Resources

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<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Resource</th>
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<td>2)</td>
<td>Best Teaching Practices in the Middle Grades <a href="http://www.middleweb.com/1stDResources.html">http://www.middleweb.com/1stDResources.html</a></td>
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<td>3)</td>
<td>10 Great Homework Sites for Middle Schoolers <a href="http://www.middleweb.com/Homework.html">http://www.middleweb.com/Homework.html</a></td>
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<td>4)</td>
<td>101 Things You Can Do the First Three Weeks of Class <a href="http://www.unl.edu/teaching/101ways.html">http://www.unl.edu/teaching/101ways.html</a></td>
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<td>5)</td>
<td>First day of school activity from Teacher Talk <a href="http://education.indiana.edu/cas/tt/v1i2/first.html">http://education.indiana.edu/cas/tt/v1i2/first.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>6)</td>
<td>Activities for the First Few Days of School <a href="http://www.occdsb.on.ca/~proj1615/ttindex.htm">http://www.occdsb.on.ca/~proj1615/ttindex.htm</a></td>
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*"I hear, and I forget. I see, and I remember. I do, and I understand."*  
-Chinese Proverb
September 11 Resources

1) Education World’s Remembering September 11
   http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson277.shtml
   http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson244.shtml

2) Helping Children Understand the Terrorist Attacks (U.S. Department of Education’s site)

3) Online News Hour: Remembering September 11

4) PBS’s Heroes of Ground Zero
   http://www.pbs.org/wnet/heroes/classroom.html

5) Teacher Vision’s September 11 Lesson Plans
   http://www.teachervision.com/lesson-plans/lesson-6807.html

6) Resources for Coping with the Events of September 11th
   http://www.lib.msu.edu/corby/ebss/september.htm

7) AFT’s September 11 Resources

Let’s Hear Your Ideas...

Share with your colleagues some of your favorite web sites in the next issue of this newsletter. What web sites do you use regularly for professional productivity purposes? What ones for personal productivity? Are there any web sites you’re your students enjoy or find useful? Send submissions to lgray@vertex.ucls.uchicago.edu by September 27.