Lesson Plans and Resources

Grades K-3

Article: **I Learn, You Learn... We All Learn with iPads!**
“Mine won’t charge!” “I can’t get to that screen!” and the ever dreaded, “Uh oh, I dropped it,” are all words no teacher wants to hear in his classroom when using tablets. With more and more school districts and administrators opting to purchase tablets over desktops, laptops, or other types of technology, teachers are going to have to make a plan to utilize these tools effectively and safely in order to maximize student learning. Whether you are head-over-heels-excited to be using them in your classroom, or you prefer the kind of apple you can actually eat, here are some tried and true management tricks I learned from my first year with iPads in a first grade classroom.

**Lesson Plan: Say It with Flowers!**
Here is a great modern-day lesson that will utilize many of the features of your class iPads! Two classes at once engage in this lesson about plants. They use video conferencing and digital photography to simultaneously observe and record changes in flowers placed in colored water, and share their results by e-mail. An excellent, cross-curricular lesson for the modern classroom!

**Lesson Plan: Online--On Stage--and Action**
Use your tablets to participate in a culture-sharing project with a class in a foreign country. Your class can communicate and share ideas with a class in another country. Swap information regarding language and culture. Together you can study a common topic, view a professional play, and discuss performance ideas. Next, create and record an original play to share with your new foreign friends. A very clever and comprehensive resource.

**App: Subtext**
Imagine a reading app that is appropriate for all subject areas and all grade levels! Here it is. You select any text available in a digital format and add it to your digital library. You can then provide annotation, access related books and articles, and also design, assign, and check on student work. A great resource for your go-to bank of iPad apps!

**App: Scribble Press**
Write, draw, and have a rip-roaring good time all at once! Users of this app can create original stories and artwork, use story templates and stickers to help them along, and publish their work physically or digitally. The only question left here, is: Who wouldn’t want to compose and illustrate a story with this app?

Grades 3-5

**App: Ask3**
Are you looking for a meaningful and collaborative way to use tablets in class? Enhance your teaching,
Lesson Plans and Resources

increase understanding of topics, and encourage kids to use their classmates as valuable resources with an interactive, fun, and free app.

Lesson Plan: Planets in Our Solar System
Designed for third graders, this terrific lesson has learners use technology and multimedia tools to research, explore, and create information about the solar system. The class is transformed into a ten-station learning center where children explore the solar system, and end up creating a book about the planets and a brochure that focuses on a planet of their choice. A wonderfully designed, and very thorough lesson plan on the planets in our solar system.

Article: Travel Tips! A Guide for Smoother Field Trips
Have you ever considered the wonders that an iPad can do for your next class field trip? There is nothing quite as wonderful as a field trip that goes off without a hitch. The kids are excited and motivated, and they have just experienced something new. But truthfully, field trips can be frustrating, stressful, and exhausting. They take a lot of planning and may not always turn out as you expect. These tips and suggestions may not solve every issue, but they should make your field trips more pleasant. There are also a few trip ideas to get your field-trip creativity flowing.

App: BrainPOP Featured Movie
With an iPad and this great app, you can access new featured movies daily that will allow learners to explore various topics in: science, math, English, social studies, arts, health, and technology. In addition, learners can take a quiz and play games to reinforce comprehension.

App: Remind101
Imagine a simple way to remind students and parents about upcoming events, projects, appointments, and more through text messages. This free service allows for one-way communication from the teacher to parents/students. Simply sign everyone up and send out messages as needed.

Grades 5-8

Article: Use iPads to Enhance Your Classroom
Your class has an iPad, or more if you’re lucky, and you’re wondering how you can use it to enhance your classroom program. More likely, you are faced with so many possibilities you don’t know where to begin. Here is a whole crop of great apps to get you started.

Lesson Plan: Using Truman Trivia as a Springboard
This is a great lesson that will allow your learners to utilize several features of your class iPads. Young scholars research the Truman Library website to gather ten trivia facts. They prepare a short oral presentation on one of their questions, scoring each other on speaking and listening skills. Then they create a Truman campaign button.
Lesson Plans and Resources

App: Wikibot
Getting ready to conduct a research project, or just looking something up quickly during class with your iPad? Check out this app! Research is made easy with tabs, bookmarks, every article on Wikipedia, and more.

Lesson Plan: Using E-mail To Develop Letter-Writing Skills
Develop letter-writing skills by adapting appropriate language conventions according to context. Young authors will write friendly and business letters, and send a business e-mail to a state’s Department of Tourism to request information. This could be made into a unit to promote communication skills.

Lesson Plan: Photo Journal - Creating the Book
The Apple iWork Pages program is utilized to transfer written storyboards into digital format. Eventually, pupils publish their final photo journals. This fine lesson teaches many real-life skills such as: word processing, desktop publishing, editing text, inserting photos, and creating pleasing publications. What a great example of the many advantages of having an iPad at your disposal as part of the learning experience!

App: Write About This
Looking for an easy way to encourage youngsters to write about a variety of different topics? Try this app. Users simply choose an image to write about from a large selection of beautiful photographs and then compose original opinion pieces and narratives.

Grades 9-12

App: TopNotes Pro
Take notes, draw pictures, import images, annotate PDF documents, and export notes to multiple locations with this comprehensive and well-designed note-taking app. With a variety of options for personalization and the ability to save and password protect all of your work, this app will replace older technology while adding a new dimension to your class.

Lesson Plan: Peer Review and Collaboration
Students use audio devices, such as a phone or iPad, to record a text message using a digital device or a chat. After recording the text, the message is sent to a peer for editing, spelling, important facts, and meaning.

Article: Four Tips for Effective Parent Communication
Do you feel confident in front of your class, but tongue-tied when it comes to talking to parents? Never fear, you aren’t alone. No matter how good a teacher you are, working with the adults in your students’ lives can be a scary proposition. Read this article for smart strategies to build positive relationships with
Lesson Plans and Resources

parents, and for ways that your iPad can help in this process.

App: Doceri
Take off those chains binding you to the whiteboard and create custom presentations using an interactive program that makes even voice recording a breeze. Choose from a variety of backgrounds, writing tools, and timing options. Perfect for a flipped classroom setting, and connects easily to a computer for projection!

App: The Elements: A Visual Exploration
Here is another fantastic app to add to your tablet tool belt. Have the building blocks of the universe at your fingertips! Visually intriguing and animated, this interactive periodic table may also be the most informative chemistry tool available!