



What's so cool about a blog anyway?

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Class Blog

- ★24/7 Classroom portal: announcements, homework, daily happenings
- ★Parent communication: updates, conference and chaperone sign-up
- ★Absent students can find assignments and see what went on in class
- ★Post pictures, video, and audio
- ★Class discussions, debates, reflections can be extended outside of the classroom
- ★Authentic audience: peer, family, readership feedback
- ★Point students to useful/interesting sites (for research, extension activities, videos)
- ★Awesome tools (Sketchcast, Wikis, Polls, Quizzes, Podcasts, and much more)
- ★Student can learn to blog easily and run parts of the site
- ★Students and parents can ask questions and give comments (huge time saver)
- ★Parents get to see more of their child's work
- ★Opportunity to use and learn about technology in a safe and supportive way
- ★Blogs creates a running record of learning and year's events
- ★Student work showcase
- ★Differentiation via online assignments and challenges
- ★Saves you from answering the same questions over and over
- ★Extends the walls of the classroom (reinforce skills and extends learning)

Student/Group Blogs

- ★Creates authentic conversation between students, teacher, family, and readership
- ★Excitement! Students LOVE having their own space to run! (vested interest)
- ★Collaborative work
- ★Peer teaching
- ★Many students end up writing more than assigned, they love blogging
- ★Online writers' group (or an extension of class writers' group)
- ★Online literature group (or an extension of class literature group)
- ★Surge of creativity and interest in writing and connecting with their audience
- ★Gives students an authentic audience (readership) ... "a reason for writing"
- ★Gives students a voice, they can write what and when they want
- ★Typing practice!
- ★Students can share their writing with anyone! (published authors, grandma, Obama)

Snags

- ★Time commitment (more in the beginning, less once you get running)
- ★Possible parent trepidation
- ★Addicting ...
- ★Responsible for learning (and following) district Acceptable Use Policies

URLs

- ★<http://etch.wlwv.k12.or.us/bondit/> (password: fantastic)
- ★<http://etch.wlwv.k12.or.us/TigerTimes/> (password: tiger)