

Description of Classroom Activities
Ameritech/IMSA Internet Information Literacy Project

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School Name: Wredling Middle School
Position: Technology Coordinator
Grade Level: Middle School
Subject Area: Technology

Description of classroom activities:
Hunting License for Good Hunting On the Internet

The objective of this unit is to insure students are hunting on the Internet in a safe, efficient, and fun manner. This unit will introduce the Wredling Middle School Computer Network Users Agreement, the IMSA Inquire Pro MetaSearch Utility with accompanying materials, and a discussion of safety and the Internet. Upon completion students will be given a "Good Hunting License" that will give them access to the Internet.

Activities involved in this unit will be:

1. Filling out a Network Users Agreement and accompanying rules and regulations. A teacher lead discussion of each item will precede completion of this form.
2. The teacher will lead a discussion on the pitfalls and concerns of safe Internet researching. This discussion will include the following topics:
 - a. Viruses
 - b. Email and its many pitfalls.
 - c. Right to privacy.
 - d. Predators on the Internet.
 - e. Appropriate sites and what to do if you run into an inappropriate site.
 - f. Consequences for misuse.
3. Students will open the site of <<http://wizard.imsa.edu/inform/tips/>> and be assigned a think-pair-share cooperative learning assignment on each of the top ten search tips. Each group will present a mini play demonstrating the correct and incorrect ways of research including consequences for incorrect ways.
4. Teachers will demonstrate the Inquire Pro tutorial in summarized fashion. They will ask the students for research topics and demonstrate the large variety of responses depending on what is selected in Inquire Pro options.
5. Students will select a search engine and prepare a chart comparing their search engine to Inquire Pro that would include positives and negatives. They then will present these arguments for why their search engine could be used secondly after Inquire Pro.
6. Students will then proceed to an engaged learning unit which will be problem based. Using research on the Internet and the skills they have just obtained one

should expect to see more efficient research, better quality sources, less frustration for students, and reports with more depth given the increased efficiency.

Commentary and suggestions for implementation:

This unit will be implemented in all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade classes next fall. It is the hope of this coordinator that language arts classes will be given the materials before summer to digest and manipulate the units to their liking. It is imperative that an engaged problem based unit be prepared by each teacher to make this work.

Concerns:

The school will be undergoing major construction next fall. Power outages may be commonplace. I would not want that to interfere or frustrate my students. The Internet is too complex and difficult for them to be having peripheral problems.

Evaluation:

Basic questions needed to be answered. Are more kids getting on line in a year's time? Is the level of their work showing greater depth, more accuracy, and deeper thinking challenges then in the past? Is it a concern that teachers may back off if equipment becomes too much in demand and they cannot plan far enough in advance to try a new unit?

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