

## May 2014



## Tech Times

The Information Technology Department is pleased to bring you our third issue of Tech Times.

It is our hope to keep administrators, teachers, staff, parents and students up to date on what's happening with technology in our schools.

Our newsletter will be brought to you each semester with the latest information available to us.

From all of us in IT, we hope you have a restful and enjoyable summer!

Jeffrey B. Early, Ph.D.  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Operations

Contact:  
Jeff.Early@pcs.k12.va.us



## Cassell Receives SVRTC Technology Teacher Award



*Division Superintendent, James E. McDaniel, presents Melissa Cassell with the 2014 Technology Teacher Award on behalf of the Southern Virginia Regional Technology Consortium.*

Melissa Cassell was honored by the Southern Virginia Regional Technology Consortium with its Technology Teacher Award. Cassell, formerly a science teacher at Dan River High School, received the following endorsement from Steven Mayhew, Principal:

*Mrs. Cassell possesses the talents and skills to promote student success and improve student achievement. She is a strong advocate for students, school and community. Mrs. Cassell has a sound understanding of the teaching and learning process and she employs strategies that are effective, meaningful and diverse to meet the needs of students and school. (Continued on back)*



**Cassell Named  
Technology Teacher**  
(Continued)

*Mrs. Cassell has demonstrated her love for teaching and learning during her young career. She has a strong work ethic that consists of dedication, diligence and determination and it is apparent in every endeavor. She also sponsors the science club and has planned and implemented several after-school activities and trips with the members.*

*Mrs. Cassell provides an enriching classroom experience for students each day. There are multiple strategies that she implements to enhance learning and outcomes for students. Each day, she integrates technology into her lessons. Mrs. Cassell carefully plans her lessons to reap the most benefit of the instructional block. Mrs. Cassell uses a variety of technology tools such as daily use of the projector for a multitude of purposes, use of the lab station computers for research, use of the laptop cart for individual research projects, SmartBoard, daily use of the ELMO and airliner. She was instrumental in application of a grant that secured funding for the purchase of an iPad cart for the science department. With this new technology, she has incorporated even more technology in her instruction which the students readily embrace and benefit.*

*Mrs. Cassell identifies and discusses several useful web sites that are relevant to the curriculum including Google Earth, Discovery Kids for Astronomy, Virginia Geology from William and Mary, Mineral Mania and an assortment of other online sources. One of the remarkable facets of technology integration as it relates to Mrs. Cassell's instruction is her enthusiasm for any new technology that may become available for use.*

For school year 2014-2015, Mrs. Cassell joins the faculty and staff at the Pittsylvania County Schools STEM Academy.

**Note:**  
**Pittsylvania County Schools is a member of the Southside Regional Technology Consortium, a group of 25 southern and southeastern Virginia school divisions. The award recognizes a classroom teacher who advances technology in the educational setting.**

**Find out more:** <http://www.svrtc.org>



**Technology  
Checklist for  
Closing Out  
For the Summer**

- **Please follow the procedures provided to you by your ITRT relative to technology equipment when closing your classroom for the summer months.** Failure to correctly store your equipment may result in damage, loss of parts, and delays this fall. Your full cooperation in securing your equipment is appreciated!
- **Remember that your computer is assigned to a classroom, not to you, and it remains in that classroom if you are assigned to another room.** Your documents are stored on our network, not on that machine; therefore, they are available to you from any networked machine in our division. Again, thank you for your full cooperation.
- **PowerTeacher will close for the summer on June 5, 2014.** Teachers will be unable to access their grade books again until school begins in the fall. *New login information will be provided to principals prior to the opening of school.*



**Take Office Home With You!**

Current Pittsylvania County School employees are eligible to purchase Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2013 for just \$9.95. Simply send an e-mail through your current Pittsylvania County Schools e-mail address to [microsoft@pcs.k12.va.us](mailto:microsoft@pcs.k12.va.us). You will receive an e-mail back with instructions on how to take advantage of this program.

**Eligibility for this program is limited to current Pittsylvania County Schools' employees only and is intended for home use. Therefore, please do not install on machines of non-employees or forward this information to individuals who are not employed by Pittsylvania County Schools. Additional information may be accessed [here](#).**