

Best Practices of Technology Integration

Title: *Interstellar Travel Magazine*

Subject(s): English, Social Studies, General Science, Algebra I, Pre-Algebra, Proficiency Math, Geometry, Careers, and Computer Literacy

Intended Grade Level(s): 9th Grade

Description:

The project was an integrated academic assignment involving the four core classes of the freshman curriculum, including computer literacy and career classes. After choosing a planet other than Earth, each student designed and produced a 24-page travel magazine persuading the public to visit their planet. The magazine included individual assignments from each of their academic classes. The academic assignments met the curriculum benchmarks from the Michigan Curriculum Framework. The students were required to do research about their planet. They compared and contrasted their planet to Earth, developed a governmental system, graphed population growth, made a distance chart, wrote a prospective job-base article, and created an historical event reflecting an actual historical event from the United States. To meet the page requirement, students chose from a bank of assignments adding to the mandatory material. Class time was set-aside in each class to work on the magazine, but the majority of the assignment completed outside of the classroom. A folder and a computer disk were supplied at the beginning of the project for the storage of students' research material. On the due date, the front and back magazine covers were laminated and the entire magazine was bound before being submitted.

Curriculum Benchmarks:

[MI.SOC.I.3.HS.2](#)

Challenge arguments of historical inevitability by formulating examples of how different choices could have led to different consequences.

[MI.MAT.III.1.HS.4](#)

Identify what data are needed to answer a particular question or solve a given problem, and design and implement strategies to obtain, organize and present those data.

Materials/Hardware/Software:

Folders
Magazines
Calculators
Graph Paper
Computer Disk
Internet Access
Word Processing Software Package
Puzzle Maker Software Package
Spreadsheet Software Package
Print Shop (or similar) software package

Activities/Procedures:

On the first day of the project, each teacher reviewed the project sheet and discussed the expectations of their component to the overall magazine. The English teacher supplied a folder and computer disk along with the project sheet requirements. The grading procedure was explained and students were advised they would be issued an individual grade as well as an overall grade for each of the core academic classes. The students were also urged to integrate the assignments for their classes as much as possible. The actual research on the planets was conducted in the general science class. A small percentage of class time in each core class was set aside to work on the magazine on a daily basis. The teachers stressed that the majority of this project needed to be completed outside of class.

Assessment/Evaluation:

Students were given credit in each of their classes for the individual assignments. When the final product was submitted, all the teachers met and evaluated all the magazines. Each student was given an overall grade in each of his or her classes for the final project. The point value for the overall project was different in each individual class. The reasoning behind this was to give each teacher flexibility in determining the weight of the project.

Follow-up Activities:

The magazines were displayed for the public during the spring parent-teacher conferences. A reflective essay was assigned in the English class focusing on what the students learned, problems they encountered, what connections did they see between their classes, and what would they do differently next time.

Submitted By:

Name: Kelly Knight, Julie Lint, Steve Schnack, Christel Schaar, Dennis Schaar,
Bruce Graves, Chris Villeneuve, Mark Olmstead, Todd Neibauer
School District: Kingsley Area Schools
School: Kingsley High School
Address: 403 Blair Street, Kingsley, Michigan 49649