

TECH TIDBITS FALL 2016

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Hope College Education Department's Student Technology Team is to promote and aid in the implementation of technology to enhance teaching and learning with education faculty and students as well as local school districts.



Check out the Tech Team Website:
<http://hopeedtech.weebly.com/the-team.html>

MACCUL

Hope College Tech Team has two groups that will be presenting at the upcoming MACCUL Conference in Detroit in March 2017. Students have teamed up with area teachers to present on something teaching-related that they are passionate about. Here's a quick overview of who's going and what they'll be talking about. Good luck Tech Team members!

Sara Erxleben and Rachel Lundstrom (2015 Hope grad and currently a teacher in the Zeeland public school system) will be presenting at the 2017 MACUL conference in Detroit in March. They will be presenting on GSuite for Education (formerly known as Google Apps for Education). The presentation will focus specifically on Google Classroom, Google Drawing, Google Calendar, and Google Sites.

Ruth Reeve, Mikayla Freyling, and Kate Webb (a teacher at Innocademy) were accepted to present at the MACUL conference. The MACUL conference stands for Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning. Their presentation is titled "Student's at the Pulse of Ed Tech." They will discuss the benefits of having an educational technology team in schools.

WELCOME

Emily Schipper

Emily Schipper is a Sophomore at Hope College, studying Comprehensive K-8 education with a minor in Early Childhood education. As of now she'll be working with ISTE and Chalk and Wire. Emily says that she's most excited "to help Hope students learn ways to effectively use technology in their classrooms, so that when they graduate, they can help keep the school they work at current with educational technology." She attended some workshops, learned about the Tech Team there, and wanted to be a part of it.

Madeline Day

Madeline Day is a Sophomore here at Hope College, studying Elementary special education with a minor in music. She'll most likely be working in Assistive Technology for students with special needs going forward on the team. She says she's most excited "to grow closer to other education students and to learn more about technology. The future of education is technology and I'm excited to learn and share with the rest of Hope!" Madeline heard about the team from Professor Cherup who she was really interested in working with.

Zachary Buys

Zachary (Zac) Buys is another Sophomore here at Hope College, studying Special Education and English. Going forward with the team he'll be working primarily with Assistive Technology and UDL. He was the first of the newcomers to join the team in Fall 2016, as well as being the only new male member.

Riley Lentz

Riley Lentz is the only Freshman joining the Tech Team this semester, and is planning to study Social Studies Education. She said she's most excited, "to learn some new tech stuff especially using Google." Riley isn't quite sure what exactly she'll be doing on the team, but decided to join when Professor Cherup approached her about it.

So Long Seniors

Here we say goodbye to the Seniors that are leaving the Tech Team and Hope College as of December 2016. Good luck Seniors in your future careers!

Aaron Goodyke

Aaron Goodyke studied Vocal Music Education here at Hope College. As a member of the Tech Team, he served as the Webmaster and worked in Portfolio Management, as a Tech Researcher, as a Curriculum Library Liaison, and as a Summer Project Assistant. Aaron “loved the challenge of making things better/more efficient for Hope students/pre-service teachers and the freedom to be innovative!” Going forward he’ll be teaching music at Holland Public schools and is going to miss everyone he’s leaving here at Hope.



Erin Johnson

Erin Johnson studied Elementary Special Education L.D. here at Hope College. Last year she served as the co-director of the Tech Team then turned into the primary knowledge on Sensory Integration apps. Erin’s favorite part of Hope College was the “opportunities for personal, professional, and spiritual growth. As for now, her plans involve serving as a long-term substitute in a Kindergarten classroom at Innocademy while their teacher is on Maternity leave.



Ashley Vlasak

Ashley Vlasak studied Elementary Special Education L.D. here at Hope College. During her time with the team, she helped out with Smart Board Technologies, UDL, and Assistive Technologies. She said she’s going to miss, “the communities that she is a part of here at Hope. She will miss living near her friends, but she is looking forward to a new chapter in her life!”



Plickers

Plickers is an interesting new piece of Technology that can really aid teachers in the classroom. Ruth Reeve, current co-director of the Tech Team has been using it in this past semester, so we asked her to tell us a little about it and what she's been doing with it. Here's what she had to say.

Ruth Reeve

Q. What is Plickers?

A. Plickers is an online assessment tool that uses unique QR codes to answer multiple choice questions. Each student is assigned a code that is unique to them, and each side of the code is an answer option - a, b, c, or d. The student holds the card with their answer at the top and the QR code facing the teacher. The teacher then uses the Plickers app to scan the codes with his/her device, which saves the data in the app.

The teacher can compose questions and add answer options online or using the Plickers app. When it is time to assess students, the teacher pulls up the question on his/her device (using the app) so that it is projected on the screen for students to see. Then, the teacher follows the procedure outlines above to record student answers.

Q. How did you start using Plickers?

A. "I first discovered Plickers last year when I was looking for a new assessment tool to use in one of my education classes at Hope. Now, I have used it a few times in my student teaching placement. I love it for SO many reasons. Since the question and answer options are projected on the screen, I can read them aloud to my students (since many of them aren't at that skill level yet in first grade!). This tool also does not require a classroom to be 1:1. In other words, it only requires one tech. device. It is also GREAT for tracking my students' growth closely and accurately. It formats my data in an easy-to-comprehend way.

As a member of the tech team, I've also been able to share Plickers and my experiences using the tool at tech team walk throughs. After demonstrating the tool at a walk through, a Hope student who attended then used it in Jane Finn's class."

You can learn more about Plickers through their website <https://Plickers.com> where you can learn more about the cards, the app, and about any questions you may have.

