



USD 487 Tech Bytes

Technology for Learning

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SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION....

A concern voiced this week was the number of websites that are blocked, particularly some of the search engines that students may want to use for class purposes. As careful as we are, some sites get blocked that probably should not be. If you find a site that is needed for class work, talk to one of your teachers and have them request the site be allowed. The intent of the content filter is to protect users and keep the focus on learning.

Certain search engines are better than others are at keeping unwanted sites out of the search results. A good example of an engine that does not do a good job is Google, specifically Google Images. Search results will often include hundreds of results, many that have little if any connection to the topic requested. With time being a valuable commodity in schools, we try to focus our searches on engines that will provide useable results for staff and students.

A couple of good suggestions for search engines can be found on our KanEd site. Go to kportal.learningstation.com and enter your login and password. (remember the subscription for the district is kan937). From the portal site, select the Google search engine. This is a safe search version that filters a lot of the garbage that the generic site leaves in your search results. It also eliminates unwanted sites from the results. You can even get images from this site. A second source found on the KanEd portal is NetTrekker This is an academic search engine and will provide a great resource for classroom research.

Also on the KanEd site is access to the World Book encyclopedia, great for basic information and even some hyperlinks in articles that will aid in your research. If you are looking for materials in periodicals, select the Gale-Cengage link. Some articles are full text and provide easy access to current and historical issues.

Many resources are available however if one you need is not, request the site be approved through your teacher. Their request is generally answered in a short time.



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WHERE HAVE I LEFT IT?

Every day this week at least one laptop has been turned in to my office as “found in the hall”. At this point, I am not aware of any laptops that have been lost and not found, but the trend to of finding laptops lying unattended in the hall is an indicator that this will happen.

Please keep in mind that students are responsible for the laptop checked out to them, the bag and the charger. If they are lost, the student will be billed for the replacement cost of the items.

Students are recommended to keep the units with them at all times or to lock equipment in their locker. Leaving the laptop in the hall while in a PE class puts the equipment at risk! Staff are doing a good job of policing the halls to avoid theft issues. Please do not rely on someone else to keep track of your equipment.

Key Websites:

Herington Schools	http://www.heringtonschools.org
School Library	http://books.usd487.org
Safe Videos	http://ttc.usd487.org/safevideos
E-mail	http://mail.usd487.org
KanEd Desktop	http://kportal.learningstation.com

REPAIR ISSUES:

Having a problem with your laptop? Not working right? Keyboard issues? Programs not launching? Can't login to the network?

Please do not wait until it is too late! Notify the tech staff of problems as soon as possible. Some issues may be warranty and need to be addressed before the end of the warranty period. Some issues are simple fixes and can be addressed quickly and easily. **The important thing is to not ignore the small issue until it becomes a big issue.** Contact Jon Utech or Terry Ryff and ask for help!