

From: "SmartBrief on EdTech" <edtech@smartbrief.com>
Subject: Is the iPad the textbook of the future?
Date: January 31, 2011 2:05:38 PM CST
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Head of the Class

Can gym be taught online?

A South Dakota physical-education teacher is testing an online gym course. Students are tasked with completing 40 health-related written assignments in one semester and are required to track 60 fitness activities of their choice, which are verified by their parents. Students turn in their assignments online and are not required to attend class. Chris Clark says he launched the online program at his school after reading about the benefits of online courses for noncompetitive students. [Argus Leader \(Sioux Falls, S.D.\)](#) (1/31) Share: [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

eLearning

Is the iPad the textbook of the future?

More textbook publishers are offering resources for the iPad as they consider whether such tablet devices are the future of textbooks. Publishers are piloting iPad programs nationwide and Pearson Education Inc. has developed a complete social-studies curriculum for the iPad in partnership with Virginia. Although the iPad has "a wow factor," publishers say they will use the best technology available. "There are a lot of other mobile options, but if the iPad suddenly emerges as an educational device, we'll use it," a Houghton Mifflin executive said. [The Boston Globe](#) (free registration) (1/31) Share: [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

- **How one school is using iPads:** Students at an Oklahoma City high school used iPads and geometry skills to design their dream homes -- a task previously completed using pencils and graph paper. The school recently purchased 30 iPads that are rotated throughout the school and science teachers are the most frequent users of the devices. "We use them for virtual hands-on labs," one teacher said. "When we explored mitosis (cell division) in my class, there is an app where the students can actually manipulate the cell and make it divide." [The Oklahoman \(Oklahoma City\)](#) (1/29) Share: [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)





Other News

Students learn how to use social media to spur activism





Chicago Tribune (1/29) Share:    

Systems Management





Rural schools worry about a disadvantage in push for online courses

Idaho schools chief Tom Luna is calling for students to take more courses online, but officials at some rural schools are worried that students who lack access to high-speed Internet may be at a disadvantage. "This may be a way to get more of that into the home, but another downside is that if students aren't used to technology and are not successful in it at school, that could conceivably cause kids to tune out or drop out," one superintendent said. [The Times-News \(Twin Falls, Idaho\)](#) (1/28) Share:    

The transformation to come in cloud computing





Industry watchers expect advances and changes when it comes to cloud-computing adoption and strategies this year, especially in the development and use of private-cloud systems, according to this article. For the IT team that means building a business-operations strategy that takes advantage of self-service and automation capabilities to keep efficiency high and costs low. [GigaOm](#) (1/29) Share:    

Survey: How does IT approach backup?

A survey on the state of backup strategies and systems shows that most enterprises need to shore up approaches and that virtualization is making the task more arduous than ever. IT organizations increasingly are looking at continuous data protection and moving away from tape strategies. [InformationWeek](#) (1/29) Share:  
 





Other News

Egyptians turn to dial-up, fax machines amid Internet blackout

BBC (1/31) Share:    





Managing Budgets

DonorsChoose site enables teachers to fund classroom projects

Teachers nationwide are using [DonorsChoose](#) to buy supplies or fund classroom projects. The site has funneled \$73 million in classroom donations since its 2000 launch. Teachers make requests -- up to \$800 for newly registered teachers -- on the website, and donors search for projects they want to fund. An English teacher in Delaware says three of her requests have been funded through the site, including one for new vocabulary materials. [The News Journal \(Wilmington, Del.\)](#) (1/31) Share:    

Last Byte

Giant, 3-D-printed Rubik's Cube sets unofficial record

A Dutch puzzle master has created the world's largest and most complicated Rubik's Cube, putting together a 17-by-17-by-17-piece behemoth called "Over the Top" that crushes the former (unofficial) record of 12-by-12-by-12 pieces. Oskar van Deventer, an electrical engineer by trade, says it took him 60 hours to put together the 1,539 individual tiles, which he created using 3-D printing technology. [Popular Science](#) (1/28) Share:    

SmartQuote



When you go in search of honey you must expect to be stung by bees."

--**Kenneth Kaunda,**

1st president of Zambia

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