

PSI PARADIGM®

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Digital Matters!

Editor's Note:

While the articles in this issue on the Digital World include many of the positive and exciting advances brought about by technology, PSI is aware that this world can also be full of challenges and issues that must be dealt with by schools and parents.

Digital citizenship education for students is vitally important in this burgeoning field.

Beyond this, here are some beginning discussion points for your school to consider on the subjects of digital devices and technology.

With proper planning and education, schools can properly and effectively harness this amazing world and help their students learn, thrive and grow.

The *Pros* and *Cons* of Classroom Devices

Pros

Here are some **Benefits** of allowing digital technologies in school:

- Peace of mind for emergency situations
- Instant answers to questions
- Wider access to information
- Access to video
- Wider range of music available
- Social learning

Cons

Here are some potential **Negative Impacts** of using devices:

- Harmful physical effects of digital devices
- Distraction from schoolwork
- Child predators and cyberbullying
- Need to provide a 'dis-connect'



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Digital Matters!



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Here are some of the **Advantages** of technology in Education:

- Promotes independent learning in students
- Prepares students for the future
- Has the potential to lower textbook and tuition prices
- Allows teachers to create an exciting way to educate students
- Encourages development of new teaching methods

Here are some of the **Disadvantages** of technology in Education:

- Results in a lack of interest in studying
- Makes students vulnerable to potential pitfalls
- Negative views on technology exist
- Raises possible instructional challenges
- Can diminish overall value of in-person education



Cyber-teacher Take: E-Learning = Flexibility, Engagement and Student Success!

Faith Dezort, a PSI Online teacher, states that “through the use of interactive games, worksheets and other online tools it is possible to have the same level of interaction and interest between the instructor and student, which leads to the success of the student in their classes.” She likes that the online environment allows a more flexible schedule, driving time is eliminated, sessions do not have to be canceled because of issues like winter weather and that students remain engaged.

E-Learning students chime in!

Jeffrey Wilson, an 11th grade PSI ESL student at OHDELA, a virtual school, says, "I like online because it helps me with school any time I want it. It helps me understand my school better." Jeffrey's 10th grade brother, Rafael, likes online best because “it is less distracting. I can focus on what (the teacher) said and I can focus on my assignment."

E-Learning upside!

Perhaps the greatest upside of e-Learning is that it has great potential for creating an effective educational environment. New technologies, properly implemented, can improve student-teacher relationships and interactions both within and outside the classroom.

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Are You Signed Up?

Are you getting Paradigm in your inbox? Click here to make sure you are signed up: <http://bit.ly/2yOtA4J>

E- Learning: *The Upside!*

By Kay Almy, M.A.T.

PSI ESL and Foreign Languages Manager

The rise of E-Learning is considered by many to be the most significant technological trend impacting schools today.

Whether E-Learning is blended (a combination of online and face-to-face) or virtual (totally online), innovative, web-based, technologies now permeate education. One upside is that this technology-based education explosion allows both students and educators to interact in new and potentially advantageous ways.

Educators and the benefits of E-Learning:

We queried educators and students trying to keep up with Internet-based technology. They cited the following E-Learning benefits:

- Flexibility for staff and students
- Students are typically more engaged
- Student-teacher relationships improve

Melissa Worbis, Social Studies teacher at Marshall High in Middletown, Ohio, states that their blended learning program “allows students to learn in an environment focused on individualized learning.” Ms. Worbis explains that their adaptable online curriculum helps students overcome many educational/life barriers and receive their high school diplomas.

“The small classroom size allows students to have more one-on-one attention and provides the opportunities for teachers to create lessons that are catered to fit the different learning styles and learning needs of each student” she says, and adds: “The individual learning options help inspire students to see they can be successful.”

She notes that students “work on the computer for the majority of their lessons and move through material at their own pace, often allowing students to accelerate their learning.” An additional benefit is that “having students use technology, but still attend in a building, allows facilitation of a structured learning process and provides the opportunity for students to have a high school experience...”

Stefanie Page, Principal at Clark Preparatory Academy in Springfield, Ohio uses **VirtualPSI** for Speech and Language. She has witnessed successful e-relationships develop for her speech students through the virtual platform. “It has been wonderful working with our SLP, Lisa. Her ability to be flexible and always work within our schedule has been fantastic. Lisa is very accommodating when it comes to changing times to work around testing schedules and student absences. The students who receive speech services enjoy working with her and remain engaged.”

This Month's Must Know Tools!

By Tanner Higgin, Director, Education Editorial
Common Sense Education

Things move fast in the edtech world, and we hear all the time from teachers how hard it can be to keep up. This is why we've created the EdTech Eleven, our monthly list of noteworthy tools generating buzz in the edtech world. While these aren't recommendations or ratings (you have to check out our Top Picks for that), what you'll find on the EdTech Eleven is a quick and current list of trending tools you might want to check out.



Apps that help people create beautiful, web-first designs are on the rise. From Canva to Sway and now Adobe Spark, consumers and educators have lots of options. Spark, however, stands out due to sheer versatility. It combines the functionality of former Adobe apps Slate, Post, and Voice, offering students and teachers lots of options to create visual presentations and stories.



CoSpaces caught our eye on the ISTE show floor. It was one of a handful of edtech products looking to ride the wave of interest in VR and AR. However, what sets CoSpaces apart is its focus on creation and not simply consumption of VR experiences. CoSpaces also recently launched a teacher-friendly version with a two-month free trial. If you're already teaching coding, this could be a way to amp up the engagement in the 2017-2018 school year.



We've seen interest growing in Flipgrid, a super-slick video response tool that lets teachers create class pages, post discussion topics, and elicit video responses from students. Flipgrid's tagline -- “Use video the way your students do” -- is clear in the tool's design, which makes formative assessment kinda like FaceTiming. Given it's available on a ton of platforms and integrates with most major LMSes, we can see this tool really taking off.



We've had our eyes on Goosechase for some time now, but with the launch of an education-friendly edition, it's finally made this list. The pitch for Goosechase is simple: It's a smartphone-enabled scavenger hunt where players submit photo, video, or text evidence of their finds. While the learning game library is tiny right now, educators can adapt what's there or create new games.



Scratch, the long-running creative coding platform, is one of the most beloved tools in edtech. One thing it's been missing, though, is a fully fleshed-out teacher dashboard. Itch hopes to change that. It aims to be a safer and more easily managed learning environment for Scratch. Inside Itch, teachers and schools can manage and assign video lessons, students can work on and share Scratch projects, and teachers can monitor progress. Take note, though, that Itch, unlike Scratch, is a paid service.

Want More? Click the link - <http://bit.ly/2h5KZMv>



These Social Media Apps Are Causing Trouble In Schools

From the Huffington Post

Anonymous apps are notorious hubs for cyberbullying because kids feel emboldened to say things they wouldn't normally.

How certain apps become popular with kids is a bit of a mystery. The best ones mix all the stuff tweens and teens love — gossiping, hanging out, clowning around, and meeting other kids — with an X factor that makes them go viral. Once an app gains critical mass (like, when every kid in school is on it), that's when the real fun begins. But that's where things can go wrong, too.

While recent app crazes were all about the new and novel, such as [Snapchat's disappearing messages](#) and [WhatsApp's free texting](#), this year's social media giants mostly serve up familiar features. And though some new offerings correct safety issues of the past — and kids are getting savvier about responsible use — social media can still stir up drama. The ones to watch out for this year include [anonymous apps](#), [live streaming](#), [group chatting](#), and [friending](#), which bring up risks associated with giving blunt "feedback," broadcasting yourself to the internet, oversharing and meeting strangers.

It's [tough to keep up with all the latest apps kids get into](#). And the truth is, you don't have to know every single detail of how each one works. [The most important thing is to keep the lines of communication open with your kid](#). Talk about their social media, ask questions — and listen. Pay attention to anything that sounds like a red flag and dig deeper. Helping your kid [learn to use social media responsibly](#) is the most effective way to help them stay safe online.

Check out some of the apps that can potentially stir up drama in schools.

Anonymous Apps. These apps allow kids to provide anonymous, unsolicited, and unmoderated feedback to other users. Anonymous apps are notorious hubs for cyberbullying because kids feel emboldened to say things they wouldn't normally. New apps in this category include safety precautions, but you should still keep an ear out for potential issues.

Kiwi. This app and website lets people ask questions of friends or all users. Posts are tagged with your location (unless you turn it off), so all the kids at one school can be on the app. The combination of anonymity and proximity led to the downfall of similar apps [such as YikYak](#).

Sarahah. An Arabic word that translates roughly to "honesty," Sarahah lets you send anonymous comments to friends. Some teens may use it to send anonymous messages with their schoolyard crushes, but more often it's used to transmit all the mean things teens would never say to a friend's face.

TBH. Standing for "to be honest," TBH lets kids answer mostly wholesome questions about friends. The app's launch was pretty tame, but with anonymous apps' poor track record, TBH's chat function could get out of hand.

Want More? Click the link - <http://bit.ly/2zPKqya>

PSI Now Has a Mobile App!

Want to stay connected? Need to stay to connected? My supervisor is telling me to get connected!

Here are the Top 10 Reasons why our employees use PSI's Mobile App:

- 1
Because my phone is surgically attached to my hand!
 - 2
Because I can access my PSI email anytime I want!
 - 3
Because I can access important documents by using it!
 - 4
Because everyone has it!
 - 5
Well...I guess it's part of my job responsibilities!
 - 6
Because I will get sent important updates from PSI!
 - 7
Because I can access our websites through it!
 - 8
Because I need a break when playing Candy Crush!
 - 9
Because it makes me a more efficient employee!
 - 10
And.....Because we live in a digital age!
- Your school can have its own Mobile App. Call 877-264-9010 or email adam@tappittechnology.com. Please mention PSI to Adam.*



What's **Good** about Social Media?: _____

- Social media tools and networking sites encourage educators to interact with each other, share ideas and to express their creativity.
- Social media helps to establish enduring relationships with real people that sometimes is difficult for shy or isolated people.
- “The internet and social media train our brains to skim and scan” (Connelly, 2011). Due to the big amount of information available on social media sites, we learn to discern easily between what is useful and what is not.
- Social media is easy to use and accessible from virtually everywhere and at any time increasing communication.
- Social media helps prepare us for and maintain successful employment.

All Digital - *All PSI!*

Here are the ways you can stay connected with PSI for Educational Updates and Information!

- Tweet us on [Twitter](#)
- Friend us on [Facebook](#)
- Connect on [LinkedIn](#)
- Download [PSI's Mobile App](#)
- Surf our [Website](#)

Social Media: *The World of Networking!*

Here's a quick look at the user statistics of a few social media platforms, which only prove the growing popularity of these websites.

Facebook - 1.6 Billion
Instagram - 430 Million
LinkedIn - 420 Million
Twitter - 230 Million

How to Help *Your Parents* In the Digital Age

From the Chagrin Falls Exempted Village School District

Parenting has never been harder than it is today. Every generation of parents have been faced with new challenges. Our society's increased access to information, people, and technical devices is arguably the most daunting challenge to come along in a very long time. Technology is constantly changing our world and most recently, our educational system. As a parent, supporting your student in the digital age can be stressful, problematic, and exhausting. It can even be difficult to find help especially when you don't always know the right questions to ask.

Introducing Help @ Home

The goal of the Help @ Home project is to help parents become better connected with their student's digital lives. Sign up and you'll receive a weekly email with relevant information on modern-day parenting as it relates to technology, education, and Generation C. Some sample topics to be covered include:

Digital citizenship • Security and Privacy • Trolls, hoaxes, and scams • Filtering and monitoring technology use
Social Media & Instafamous dreams • Disconnecting (Healthy tech diet)

Help @ Home seeks to teach parents how to become a resource for their student(s), instead of a roadblock. Click the link to sign up now and learn more! <http://bit.ly/2xkWI5I>

Understanding teletherapy services in today's schools

By Chris Worthington, MA, CCC
PSI VirtualPSI Coordinator

Technology is an integral part of our everyday lives and very few of today's school-aged students can imagine life without it. It has certainly made a positive impact on learning, education, and health services through the use of telepractice. Telepractice is recognized by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association as applying technology in the delivery of speech-language services at a distance for assessment, treatment and consultation, and is considered an appropriate and effective service delivery model. Students today are considered "digital natives" and they have been integrating technology into their lives since birth through the use of smart phones, gaming systems and social media. A 3-year-old has the capability of manipulating their parent's phone with expertise to open up apps for games or to take pictures. Doesn't this seem logical that this gives them a distinct advantage to use technology for therapeutic services? Telepractice, or telehealth for our OT and health services providers, can help address staff shortage, provide services to the unserved or underserved students, or reducing travel time and cost for itinerant providers. It's so exciting to log on and see the student's eager face ready to work and to watch them make progress and achieve their targeted goals.

What is VirtualPSI? VirtualPSI is an innovative and engaging provider of online speech therapy, OT and ESL services. Our services are provided through a live, HIPAA compliant, interactive platform that is dynamic and user friendly to both the clinician and student. Our professional team of speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists and teachers are nationally certified, state board licensed, and licensed by the state department of education and come with many years of clinical and school-based experience. To assure the highest quality of care, our professional, licensed staff members go through extensive training in the use of our technology to apply their expertise in the digital classroom.

VirtualPSI is convenient and cost effective, and encourages our staff to pair their skills with creative, student-tailored, curriculum-based activities. Our digital platform is provided with no added fees or equipment for our client schools. We have a dedicated and ongoing supervisory support team for our staff and schools for all technical and clinical needs. Our staff SLPs, OTs and teachers are knowledgeable in special education mandates, IDEA, FERPA, HIPAA, COPPA, and know how to work cooperatively within a multi-disciplinary team. Our platform permits our staff to communicate seamlessly with parents, teachers and administrators.

Where will you find VirtualPSI? Charter and public schools, non-public schools, virtual schools, home services for medically fragile students are those that can't attend school due to suspension.

(Telepractice, telehealth, telepsychology, telemental health) – all approved by ASHA, AOTA, APA)

VirtualPSI: the place where digital services begin!

Teletherapy Mythbusters

Myth #1: Telepractice is an inferior therapy model and not face-to-face.

Reality: VirtualPSI is a face-to-face service delivery model accomplished electronically. Students engage in real-time, state-of-the-art digital platform with a trained, state and nationally certified professional. Studies have shown that telepractice outcomes match, and at times, exceed traditional therapy models.

Myth #2: Students have a difficult time engaging in telepractice because the technology is complicated and cumbersome.

Reality: Today's students are considered "digital natives" and have been exposed to technology since birth. VirtualPSI's digital platform provides a dynamic, yet uncomplicated electronic environment to achieve their goals.

Myth #3: Online services limits interactions with other staff members, and the SLP or OT are isolated.

Reality: VirtualPSI's digital platform provides the optimal environment for teacher collaboration and open communication with the special education team. With the click of a button, our staff professional can participate in meetings, attend parent conferences, collaborate with building staff members and administrators, and contribute necessary information, as needed. Participation is seamless, timely and effective.

Want More? Click the link - <http://bit.ly/2gHuvGg>

Last But Not Least...

4 Ways to Use Augmented & Virtual Reality Apps in the Classroom

Check out these teacher-approved apps and lesson plans for teaching with AR and VR:

<http://bit.ly/2z5M8Oz>