**Action Assignment #2**

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**Apps for Education**

1. My Big Campus - <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/my-big-campus/id464196976?mt=8> This app is a gateway to the online course management program that our district currently uses. It allows students to access their online discussion groups, documents, and calendars. Teachers have all of the above access in addition to the ability to create assignments, communicate with students in and out of school through messaging and on walls, and access their edutalk feed – an online PLN.
2. Mental Case - <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mental-case-classroom-edition/id330972585?mt=8> In this app students and/or teachers can create and share flashcards. Both sides of the flashcard can contain either text, images, or audio. I could use this app to create flashcards of vocabulary word from a story or even literary terms. This would be a great tool for a variety of other content areas as well. Sets of cards can be shared via Bluetooth and email, however, one must have the paid edition to do this.
3. Dropbox - <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/dropbox/id327630330?mt=8> To use this app students would need to have an account created and a folder put into their network drive. Once there, students would be able to simply drop a document into that folder on their computer and then be able to access it from anywhere. I could see students in my class turning in assignments through dropbox in addition to being able to access any of their work anywhere they have their iPad/iPod.
4. smartNote - <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smartnote-free/id382368297?mt=8> This app basically converts a paper notebook into an electronic version. Students can create notebooks for each class or topic and add pdfs, take classroom notes, etc. The app syncs with Dropbox so notes and entire notebooks can be placed into it. Audio in addition to the written word is also available. I could see (if I had a classroom set of iPads) students taking their classroom notes where they could insert model text examples and highlight and mark up the text. I would have my students keep separate reading response journals that they could then drop box a copy to me for evaluation.
5. Pearltrees - <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pearltrees/id463462134?mt=8> One of the neatest apps I’ve ever seen! This app is an organized way to surf the web. It resembles a bubble-web of ideas. A student starts with a pearl (basically, a website)– either one that the app generates based on a word the student is searching for, or from a website that a students saved as a pearl. When a student clicks on the pearl in the app it expands into a ton of related pearls that other users have contributed. This would be a fantastic research tool. Students enter a topic and all sorts of websites come up – not in a google order or by who pays, but in a logical intuitive web.
6. Confer Lite - <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/confer-lite/id366737215?mt=8> This app is great for teachers who use readers/writers workshop with lots of student conferencing. This is how I would use it in my classroom. It allows teachers to quickly record strengths, teaching points, and next steps for each student. The data can be organized by class, student, and tags. Teachers could then export the data as a spreadsheet or send it as an email. I’ve found myself filling in lots of paper forms for conferencing and this would greatly decrease the paper and increase my efficiency in getting through all of my kids.
7. Chicktionary - <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/chicktionary-for-ipad/id365374807?mt=8> This game gives students a series of random letters (on chickens☺) and they are to make as many word combinations as possible. I would use this game strictly for downtime or as filler while others are finishing up work. There are a couple of modes – getting all the possible words, and getting as many words as possible in a given time period.
8. ScreenChomp - <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/screenchomp/id442415881?mt=8> An interactive whiteboard app. This app allows students and teachers to record their screen in addition to simply used as an electronic whiteboard. I could see using this app in a couple of ways. First, I could use it as formative assessment while working on grammar activities – a simple electronic version of an individual white board. I could also see my students create short mini-lessons and record themselves. These could be shared and posted for remediation lessons for struggling students or for students who were absent and may have missed the lesson.
9. Side by Side - <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/side-by-side-dropbox-support/id386528623?mt=8> This app takes the screen of the iPad and splits it up into a possible four quadrants. Each section can have a separate webpage, document, or blank note taking page open and running. In other words, it can eliminate the need to double click the home button to transfer between programs. This could be another excellent research tool – students could have a website up as well as their noodlebib account for works cited info, a blank note for note taking, and even a dictionary up for quickly looking up unknown words. This is a great app for multi-tasking – there is even connectivity to dropbox!
10. Dictionary - <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/dictionary.com-dictionary/id308750436?mt=8> This is the app version of the popular dictionary.com website. It is a full and complete dictionary, but also offers other features. There is a word of the day which could easily be used for vocabulary development. Students can mark words as favorites – a pretty cool feature for when students are looking for that “just right” word. Just a tap of a button turns the dictionary into a thesaurus. As a feature for students who may lack the ability to type – students can speak the word into the iPad and it will attempt to find its definition.

**Personal Apps**

1. Twitter - <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/twitter/id333903271?mt=8> This app allows me to access my PLN on twitter anytime. I find it much easier and more convenient to read tweets from those I follow. Since I have downloaded this app I am more likely to monitor my feed as well as tweet and retweet cool things I have found.
2. AllRecipes - <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app//id399919379?mt=8> I love to cook and try new recipes and this app is wonderful. I used the website, but the app is so much more convenient. Everything is on one screen – the ingredients, the directions and even reviews with suggested changes. There are a number of ways to filter recipes to find exactly what I’m looking for and for a $4.99 fee your online recipe box can be linked and even grocery lists can be made.
3. Netflix - <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/netflix/id363590051?mt=8> This app allows Netflix streaming directly to your iPad – and with the right adapter – your TV. I’ve found that this is the app that my family uses the most. Especially my 4 year old. Access your streaming queue and search new movies and TV shows to watch. Since downloading this app, we are definitely getting the most out of our Netflix subscription.
4. Skype - <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/skype-for-ipad/id442012681?mt=8> Since our family has quite a few members that are out of town, Skype has allowed us to keep in touch easier. My daughter skypes her cousin almost every other day! I’m looking forward to taking our first vacation with the iPad so that instead of simply calling back home to Grandma and Grandpa, we can skype and see each other!
5. Time Warner Cable - <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/twcable-tv/id420455839?mt=8> This app basically turns my iPad into a TV. I’m able to watch live TV and even operate my DVR from anywhere! No need for me to have a TV in every room – I can carry it with me!