PeerSphere
Professionally Hosted Peer Learning Communities

Session 1 Summaries

Tech Directors & Coordinators

Date: October 16, 2024
Hosts: Shannon Doak, Tim Evans

Conversational

The participants were active in the session, and we had some great conversations. A highlight was the discussion about how current projects could be made into presentations to help our community grow and learn. Some topics that came up included approaches to AI usage with younger students and AI assisted data analysis and visualization.

Diverse

It was great to see a wide diversity of humanity represented in the session.

Directional

Today's session gave us greater direction for the following sessions. One emerging theme is that AI in education is on everyone's mind. All aspects from improving learning to data privacy and protection was discussed.

AI

Much of the conversation naturally drifted towards the artificial intelligence area as it is on everyone's minds. For example, we discussed platforms for student use, the need for data anonymization and policy around what can, and what probably shouldn't, be done using large corporate AI models.
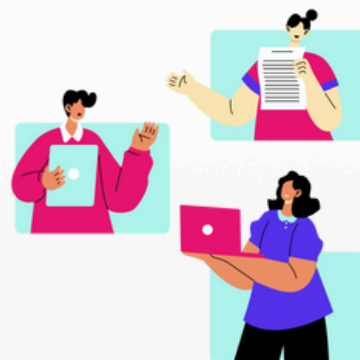
Additional Resources
* Discussion 1
* Discussion 2
* Session 1 Slide Deck
* Session 1 Recording

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Session 2 Summaries

Tech Directors & Coordinators

Date: November 20 2024
Hosts: Shannon Doak, Tim Evans

Focused

This session focused entirely on Digital Citizenship and the approaches taken by the participants. Discussion was pointed and allowed for the group to have meaningful dialogue about current approaches.

Collaborative

Participants were treated to a great presentation by one of our members (Lindsey Devillier, Director of Innovation at Beijing World Youth Academy.) His presentation gave us concrete examples of how his school approaches Digital Citizenship as well as a safe place for students to speak up against bullying and other areas of concern.

Interactive

This session have multiple opportunities for our participants to share thier own experiences, which makes peer learning more impactful.
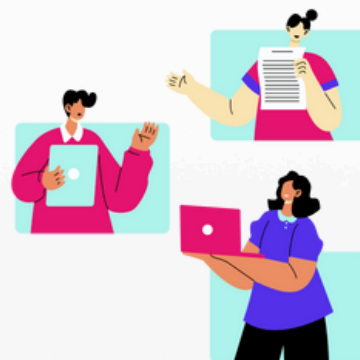
Additional Resources
* Discussion 1
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* Session 2 Recording

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Session 3 Summaries

Tech Directors & Coordinators

Date: February 19, 2025
Hosts: Shannon Doak, Tim Evans

Building a Collaborative Tech Leadership Community

Tech directors and coordinators came together to share challenges, celebrate successes, and collectively brainstorm solutions. By establishing collaborative norms —such as assuming positive intent, active listening, and sharing insights—the session set a strong foundation for an inclusive, supportive environment where every participant's experience adds value.

Innovating Classroom Learning Through Technology

Guest speaker Amy Hossack showcased a range of innovative tech projects—from immersive VR simulations and robotics-integrated math lessons to engaging Minecraft and maker space initiatives. These real-world examples highlighted how strategic tech integration can transform learning, enhance student engagement, and bring abstract concepts to life.

Structuring Tech Departments for Strategic Impact

The discussion delved into effective tech department structures and the critical interplay between IT support and instructional innovation. Leaders shared their experiences in managing diverse teams, collaborating with external vendors, and aligning tech initiatives with pedagogical goals to drive school-wide improvement, emphasizing that clear organizational strategies foster professional growth and impactful change.
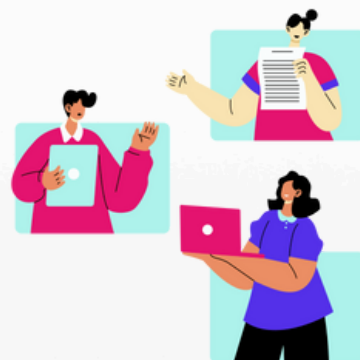
Additional Resources
* Session 3 Slide Deck
* Session 3 Recording

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Session 4 Summaries

Tech Directors & Coordinators

Date: April 16, 2025
Hosts: Shannon Doak, Tim Evans

Collaborative Reflections on AI Implementation

This session served as an open, conversational space for participants to reflect on their AI integration efforts over the past year and to explore directions for the upcoming school year. Schools shared varying stages of AI adoption—from policy development and student guidance, to tool piloting and teacher training. Emphasis was placed on community learning, honest sharing, and building an international support network among tech leaders.

Student-Centered AI Literacy and Guardrails

One key insight will be prioritizing student guidance over enforcement. Instead of focusing solely on academic dishonesty, they developed a student-friendly AI playbook, introduced thoughtful policies for teachers, parents, and students, and emphasized student voice in AI usage. The session also covered guardrails to prevent overreliance on AI, including engagement-focused teaching strategies and reflection on why students might offload thinking tasks to AI.

Platform and Tool Decisions Driven by Context and Value

Participants discussed different platforms—Flint, Magic School, SchoolAI, DeepSeek, Canvas, ManageBac, Toddle, Canva AI—and shared experiences with each. Schools are moving toward custom-built solutions, like AISG's internal "AISGPT" platform, for better control, privacy, and cost-effectiveness. Hosting AI locally via on-campus servers was also explored to ensure data security and enable deeper experimentation across grade levels.

Additional Resources
* [Session 4 Slide Deck](#)
* [Session 4 Recording](#)

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