# Technology Tidbits and Tools

**Social Groups/Learning groups**

<http://www.classroom20.com>

community of teachers and has live learning sessions

<http://ALMnetwork.ning.com>

community for ALM teachers/parents

<http://plurk.com>

social network – join a group of teachers interested in technology

**SKYPE**

<http://www.skype.com>

download a tool to enable you to talk free to anyone in the world who has Skype on their computer. Chat, talk, or video connections. Great for class sharing projects or special guests or even virtual field trips.

**Google Tools**

<http://docs.google.com>

Create or upload documents to save “in the cloud” or to share with others. Group editing possible. Includes a variety of document types such as Word, PowerPoint, spreadsheet, and my favorite forms. You can create a survey on Google Docs and send a link to others. The results are compiled in Google immediately as people fill out the surveys.

**Other Google goodies:**

Google alerts – on any topic of name you want

Google Earth – (moon, Mars and Ocean too) for geography and lit trips

Google Maps

Google Sketch-up: create 3-D models and they can also be placed on Google Earth! This is an amazingly rich 3-D program for FREE.

Google Sites – create free web pages

**Social Bookmarking**

Diigo <http://www.diigo.com>

Create annotated bookmarks here and access anywhere. There are easy toolbar apps so that you can just click and save.

Delicious <http://delicious.com>

Create and organize in the cloud. Diigo can save to both automatically!

**Mind Mapping**

Speaking of “clouds” these apps will create “word clouds” using the text you enter. Great for evaluating text of speeches, writing, literature, etc. We used at beginning of the year for personal word clouds to introduce ourselves to each other.

<http://www.wordle.net>

<http://www.tagxedo.com> (can make many different shapes)

<http://bubbl.us> does webbing

**iTunes U**

Yes, iTunes has it’s own university campus!

Just go to the iTunes Store and look for iTunes U. Here are FREE podcasts and university classes recorded for your listening pleasure. FREE. You can learn a foreign language, astronomy, history, or just about anything else you want to know – did I mention FREE?

**Helpful Browser Apps**

<http://quietube.com> clicking on this app removes all text and ads from pages such as YouTube. Nice for removing nasty comments that you don’t want kids to see so that they can focus on the right thing – the video

<http://readability.com> this app does a similar thing for text. Removes side-bars, photos and ads from online text

<http://bit.ly> ever tried to have your students (or you) type in a very long URL successfully? Here’s the answer. Just copy and past into the bit.ly tool and it will give you a unique shortened address to use. And it WORKS!

**Conversion Tools**

<http://zamzar.com>

<http://media-convert.com>

When you have a word document and need a PDF, or need to convert a YouTube to Quicktime or Windows Media? These tools are to the rescue! Many more options available.

**Podcasting/Video learning**

Listening: iTunes U plus more!

<http://www.ted.com>

Ted Talks are short (20 min. or less) on a particular topic. They are presented by leaders in their fields although you’ve probably never heard their names before. Amazing ideas, creativity, and problem solving examples on just about any topic in the world. Searchable.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/sciencenow/rss/#h01>

Listen and/or create

<http://podbean.com>

<http://gcast.com>

Create: Garageband on Apple computers

Audacity on both PC and MAC <http://sourceforge.audacity.net>

**Photos**

Check for Creative Commons license – and can check Creative Commons

website. You’ll find MANY on Wikipedia.

Flickr <http://www.flickr.com>

<http://bighugelabs.com> Big Huge Labs – lots of activities to do with photos –

some free

<http://www.gimp.org> Gimp – photo editing online FREE

<http://www.photoshop.com/express/landing.html> Photoshop express

Image Mosaic Generator

<http://picasa.google.com> Picasa

**Creative Programs for Students**

<http://samanimation.com> create animated video

<http://www.snapfiles.com/get/stickfigure.html> animated characters

<http://scratch.mit.edu> animated programming environment

Alice – programming

**Follow these Tech Educators:**

Kevin Honeycutt [www.kevinhoneycutt.com](http://www.kevinhoneycutt.com)

Cyndi Danner-Kuhn [www.technologybitsbytesnibbles.info](http://www.technologybitsbytesnibbles.info)