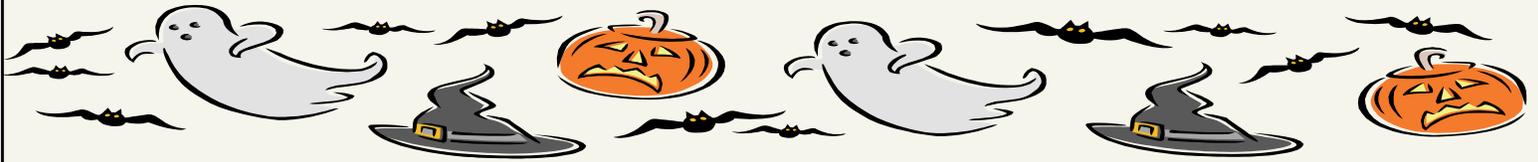


Technology Tips



THE HIGH SCHOOL OF COMMERCE

ALL ABOUT THE WEB PAGE!!! PART ONE - BASIC INFORMATION

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The Great Pumpkin is 40 years old this year!!!
- There actually was a "real" Dracula. His name was "Vlad the Impaler" and he ruled a small country named Wallachia.
- Bram Stoker's original name for Dracula was "count Wampyre"
- People began dressing up in costumes on Halloween to prevent the dead spirits from recognizing them as they walked the earth.
- **Samhain** is a time for getting rid of weakness, as pagans once slaughtered weak animals which were unlikely to survive the winter. A common ritual calls for writing down weaknesses on a piece of paper or parchment, and tossing it into the fire.

You know being back here at Commerce, it's been wonderful to see everyone getting into the swing of school through September. It's kind of amazing realizing that learning so many new names of both staff and students is going to require major effort because you keep seeing new faces (and some of them have been here for two years now) throughout October. What's a guy to do?

Well, the first thing I could tell you, I already have through the first two months of school. Using e-mail is a really great idea considering the size of our staff. Many trees can be saved if we just cut down on a few of the notices that go around. My point is, it's a great way to start and I think we've gotten to a point where we can move to the next step. The High

School of Commerce Web Site should be the most comprehensive and interactive website of all the school pages, not only in the city, but in the region. We can make it that way by following a few guide-



it's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown!

lines and steps.

The first of these is making sure that we have all the infor-

mation on the basic shell of our site correct. That means, anything that you see that can be made more "correct" (from a content standpoint), please let me know!!! I need all the help I can get here!

The next thing we have to start tackling is making sure of our links on the resource pages. Any websites already there should be o.k., but what I'd like to see are more of the sorts of stuff you use that I haven't got there. Contribute those sites you use all the time in your classes and planning. Share with the rest of us. We'll build up an enormous amount of resources in a very short fashion if we all pitch in. I'll make sure they get to the web for your convenience.



ALL ABOUT THE WEB PAGE!!! PART TWO - TEACHER PAGES

Every teacher has an area on the web page that is exclusively theirs. What this means is, you can create, post, edit and generally maintain your web page on the High School of Commerce site with very few limitations on things like: size, layout, design, or whatever program you use to edit and create your space.

The sorts of things you

should be putting up on your page are:

- **Assignments** (both class and homework)
- **Expectations**-for single assignments as well as your entire course
- **Your contact info at school**- School e-mail, phone extension, NOT YOUR PERSONAL NUMBER
- **Examples of student work**- all

identifying information (other than name of the class and the level) **HAVE TO BE REMOVED!!!** This is a district policy..

- **Your personal statement** and some info on you. You might want to mention some of your qualifications, that sort of thing.

There are many more things

Computer Possession: A possibility

While I normally try to rule out demonic possession as a general rule, there are times when it actually does become a problem. Most people aren't aware of the tried and true fact that if you haven't cleaned up your browser cache ("cookies") and made sure that your temp files have been cleared away, it opens up a portal straight from the seventh circle of hell where, or so I'm told anyway, there is a special place that only has ribs

and Kentucky fried chicken with no wet naps for all eternity as you work on your old Dell Latitude laptop with no external mouse or keyboard.

How am I aware that this is demonic possession and not the infantile attempt of Bill Gates to squeeze the computer using public into buying yet another version of MS Office? Because as rich and powerful a demigod as Mr. Gates obviously is, there is no software or hardware producer that could create such a perfectly timed disruption of power

causing all non-saved work to be lost and unrecoverable on such a grand scale. Picture it. You've been tirelessly working on your PowerPoint presentation, making sure all the text could be read by people in the back row of the auditorium when...nothing... 57 slides disappeared, never to return. It happens every time. hell's either got a grudge, or the other crew has to get out a little more often. Either way, makes you think doesn't it?



Bela Lugosi as Dracula

*'Tis now the very witching
time of night,
When churchyards yawn
and hell itself breathes out
Contagion to this world.*

William Shakespeare

HALLOWEEN AND TECHNOLOGY

Thousands of years ago there was a tribe of farmers called the Celts. They knew that the sun helped make their crops grow, so when autumn came the sun began to fade and they believed that the sun would be winter's prisoner for six months.

They were worried that the sun would not return so to make sure it did they held a festival on October 31. During which, they

asked the sun to return safely in the summer. All the cooking fires were put out and a huge bonfire was lit on the hillside. Here they prayed the sun would shine brightly after winter was over.

The next morning they would return to the hillside take a piece of the burning wood from the remains of the bonfire and light new fires so as to bring good luck. Feasts were held over the new fires and people would dress up in

costumes made out of animal skins. It was believed these costumes would protect people from bad luck.

This is how Halloween is said to have begun and is still celebrated today.

You say what does this have to do with technology? Nothing. It's just a cool story

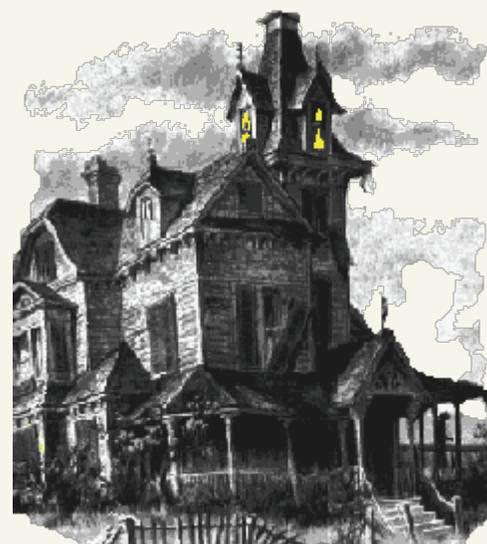
STUFF TO BE AWARE OF...

- See me (that's Mr. Musiak for all of you who think I have a *ghost* writer) about reserving the laptop carts as soon as you can after writing your lesson plans.
- Also, see me if you'd like to start working on your web pages. We can start from a

template, or you could do something that would be completely "out there" if you'd like.

- The SIP calls for a number of things having to do with technology (specifically in E/LA with the use of Inspiration). I'd like to

help you meet these goals/benchmarks/qualifications or whatever moniker the folks in charge of catchphrases are putting out this week. Seriously, there are things that you should, at the very least, be aware of. I can help.



MORE STUFF TO BE AWARE OF

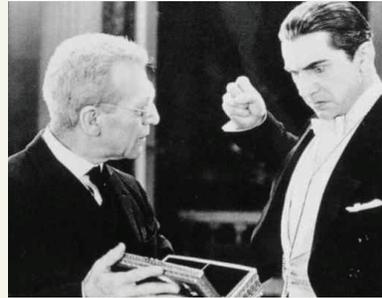


Having a very bad hair day

- If you'd like to start editing your page on the HSC website, please see me. I have a template you can use to get started along with a nifty tutorial (interactive so it won't be boring)
- MCAS re-tests are coming soon. If you'd like some help interpreting the mounds of data we have so you can "custom tailor" some last minute reviews, just let me

know. I'm pretty good with that sort of thing..

- The technology Department has put up some pretty nifty presentations. Click the picture below to go there and check them out..



"Imagination is the one weapon in the war against reality."
Jules de Gaultier

KEEPING A PORTFOLIO OF STUDENT WORK

Imagine that! Keeping a portfolio of the things that students have done in your class. I did it (and still do in my English 12 Night classes). One of the most important things we do these days is collect data. Student work is the foundation for that data. Keep it safe and organized and it helps you determine what direction your teaching will take with less fuss and a whole heap of corroboration for

the inevitable questions by folks evaluating us on our methods and strategies.

The one way I find is certainly the most valuable (and verifiable) is by keeping electronic folders for each student that contain at least 3 examples in each of the following categories:

- **Documents**-essays, Collins assignments (with FCA's)

- **Presentations**- PowerPoint presentations, Inspiration GO's, or TimeLiner docs
- **Images**-Any media they create to show understanding.

I generally save it on: the network drive, a flash drive, or back it up on a CD. I know that there are limitations here, but it is worth the time. If you have questions, please feel free to ask me for some solutions.

AND SO GENTLE READERS...

I looked out over the rooftops this morning and saw the most incredible reds and oranges as the sun came up and said "Hello" to our part of the world and I thought "Does it get any better?"

In case you haven't noticed by now (after having read through most of this newsletter), I love Halloween and the sights smells, colors,

and all-around general ambience of late October in New England. The sight this morning is just another reason (among many) to get up and get going on days like today.

The things that stir my imagination are simple and yet, profound. Those colors remind me of the fun I have teaching Gothic literature like Mary Shelly's Frankenstein. At

this time of the year, while the cold winds and the leaves on the ground remind me of my grandfather who would inevitably say something like, "Be careful, there's wet leaves on the road".

Enjoy the day, but be careful of those wet leaves folks.

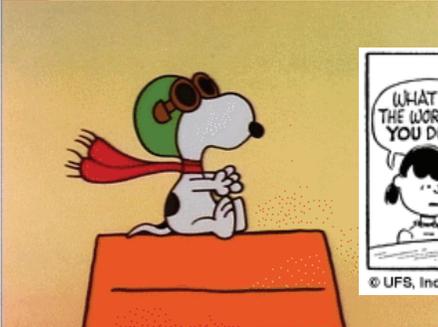
Ed Musiak



Hollywood version of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

PLEASE USE YOUR SPACE ON THE WEB!!!

THE HIGH SCHOOL OF COMMERCE HALLOWEEN COMICS



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