

Winthrop University

HOT CHALK

A Web 2.0 Technology

Hot Chalk is accessible by visiting <http://www.hotchalk.com>

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19 November 2008

This white paper was written as an assignment for Dr. Marshall G. Jones's EDUC 651 class at Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC. All rights reserved by the author. Permission is granted to use this white paper provided the user notifies the author in writing prior to use.

What is Hot Chalk?

Hot Chalk is an interactive Web 2.0 learning environment that works to link teachers with students and parents over the internet. The mission of this website-based technology is to “Improve the Lives of Teachers.” This is done by giving teachers and students easy access to information concerning education. Through Hot Chalk, a teacher can run an interactive classroom, with lesson plans and grade book storage, and have access to educational video resource tools. All of this is done to connect teachers with students and parents over the convenience of the internet. Hot Chalk can be used by all grades and subjects, including Social Studies, Science, Math, English, and the various Arts.

How can one use Hot Chalk?

Hot Chalk is easily used through a computer with internet access. Once at the Hot Chalk website, a person can create and register a login username and begin using the technology in fewer than five minutes. Registration is done through the log-in option at the top of the page. Once registered, the website allows a person to access all teaching tools needed to keep people informed on student performance, such as upcoming assignments and grades. A teacher can make a class roster on Hot Chalk, and then run his or her classroom from any computer over the internet. Once the class grade book has been made, parents and students can access their information through the use of a private passcode. Since each student will be provided with their own passcode, students will only be able to see their grades; not the grades of the whole class. As well, Hot Chalk allows for teachers to write and store lesson plans, through the assistance of lesson plan templates and guides. These lesson plans can be enhanced by adding a video resource to the lesson. Video resources are education tools, provided by NBC Learn, National Geographic, Scholastic Weston Woods, and the History Channel. These videos can provide additional information for students and are available for all grades and subjects for an additional cost. Hot Chalk provides multiple in-depth video tutorials on how to use each function under the Tutorial option found on the left hand side of the website.

Make Lesson Plans on Hot Chalk

HOTCHALK

MyDesk My Classes MyLibrary MyCommunity NBC Video Professional Dev Account | Help | Sign Out

Home > My Classes > Science

Calendar
Grade Book

Resources Add
Lesson Plans Add/Edit

The Nature of Science (2)
the scientific method
+investigate the characteristics of scientific knowledge

Astronomy (6)
Geology (3)
Conservation (2)
Ecology (3)

Quizzes and Tests Add/Edit

Import

Lesson Plans

Lesson Plans	Media Resources	Attached Files
The Nature of Science	Bar graphs and picture graphs Graphing	...
the scientific method		
Warm Up	Balloons, Bubbles, and Dry Ice... Olympics Politics	
Lesson	Balloons, Bubbles, and Dry Ice...	
Classwork		
Assignments	Balloons, Bubbles, and Dry Ice...	

Warm Up Lesson Classwork Assignments

The Nature of Science - the scientific method

Description
Using the McGraw-Hill Lesson Plan on Bar Graphs, show examples of basic graphs.

Starts: 06/23/2008 Ends: 06/26/2008

Goals & Assessments
Students should have a general grasp of bar graphs.

Attach Files Browse...

Resource Bucket

Name	Source	Used in:
Bar graphs and picture graphs...	http://demo-lib.hotchalk.com/contents/5596	-
Graphing...	http://demo-lib.hotchalk.com/contents/8115	-

Show: ☒ this topic only ☐ all for this class Add Resource

Close Save

Notes for: Samantha Stevens (not joined yet)

Student Profile

Name: Samantha Stevens (not joined yet)

Add a Note

Assignment:

Notes:

View All Notes

Bar Graphs
Samantha has made great progress with graphing.

Store Grades on Hot Chalk

MyClasses > US History

Class Code: 1M8ITW77 | Email Students

Class Summary

Grade Book

Resources Add

Lesson Plans/Topics Add

Quizzes and Tests Add/Edit

Chapter 1 Test

Quick Assignments Add

Quiz 1
Chap 1 Test
HW 2

Tutorials

Create a New Class

Quick Assignments

Students	Quiz 1 (20 pts)	Chap 1 Test... (100 pts)	HW 2 (10 pts)	Adjust	Grade	%
Abby Adams	20	88	10	0 +	A	91
Barry Brown	18	92	9	0 +	A	92
Cathy Close	14	72	8	0 +	C	72
Drew Downing	13	68	8	0 +	D	68
Emily Erart	8	52	6	0 +	F	51
Fred Franks	12	84	10	0 +	B	82

How much does Hot Chalk cost?

Hot Chalk allows a subscriber to access either basic or premium services. Basic access allows one to access every aspect of Hot Chalk for free, except for the ability to access the video resource packages that are available for premium service. The price for the premium packages vary between \$99 and \$2,000 depending on which package is desired through NBC Learn, National Geographic, Scholastic Weston Woods, and the History Channel.

Premium Digital Content

Producer	Media Package Type	Subscription Type	Videos	Video Spanish	Audio	Audio Spanish	# Hours	Price
NBC Learn	Archives	K to 5						\$ 999.00
	Archives	6 to 8						\$ 1,499.00
	Archives	9 to 12						\$ 1,999.00
	Social Studies	K to 5						\$ 599.00
	Social Studies	6 to 8						\$ 899.00
	Social Studies	9 to 12						\$ 1,299.00
	Science	K to 5						\$ 299.00
	Science	6 to 8						\$ 399.00
	Science	9 to 12						\$ 499.00
	Language Arts	K to 5						\$ 299.00
	Language Arts	6 to 8						\$ 399.00
	Language Arts	9 to 12						\$ 499.00
	Health & Guidance	K to 5						\$ 299.00
	Health & Guidance	6 to 8						\$ 399.00
	Health & Guidance	9 to 12						\$ 499.00
	US History, Women's Studies, African	Teacher						\$ 500.00
Producer	Media Package Type	Subscription Type	Videos	Video Spanish	Audio	Audio Spanish	# Hours	Price
National Geographic	Video Media Package	K to 5	150					\$ 199.00
	Video Media Package	6 to 8	375					\$ 399.00
	Video Media Package	9 to 12	375					\$ 399.00
Producer	Media Package Type	Subscription Type	Videos	Video Spanish	Audio	Audio Spanish	# Hours	Price
Scholastic Weston Woods	Media Package (Video and Audio Pack)	School	151	0	100	0		\$ 349.00
	Media Package (Video and Audio Pack)	School	151	29	100	15		\$ 399.00
	Video Package (English Only)	School	151	0	0	0		\$ 299.00
	Video Package (Spanish Only)	School	29	29	0	0		\$ 99.00
	Audio Package (English Only)	School	0	0	100	0		\$ 99.00
	Award Winners	School	27					\$ 99.00
Producer	Media Package Type	Subscription Type	Videos	Video Spanish	Audio	Audio Spanish	# Hours	Price
History Channel	Video Media Package	School	306	0	0	0	300	\$ 399.00
	American History	School	77	0	0	0		\$ 199.00
	Science	School	57	0	0	0		\$ 149.00
	World History	School	77	0	0	0		\$ 199.00
	Best of A&E	School	38	0	0	0		\$ 99.00

Price chart from the Hot Chalk Sales Department

What benefits does Hot Chalk hold for a Social Studies classroom?

Though Hot Chalk could be of value to any subject, it certainly has a benefit in a Social Studies classroom. This benefit is mainly seen in the ability to access video resources. Hot Chalk allows a teacher to have over two thousands videos available for the classroom, all found through a simple search feature. The History Channel and National Geographic packages cover an ample range of topics in the field of Social Studies. These videos are all categorized by their subject within Social Studies, US History or World History, and then again categorized by grade level. Aside from the lesson plan templates and grade book storage available through Hot Chalk, this truly is its greatest benefit for the Social Studies classroom.

Teachers who once spent time searching school libraries for out of date videos now have up-to-date videos with modern production standards. Facts within the videos can be assured as accurate due to the high standard of accuracy that the History Channel and National Geographic are both known for amongst the Social Studies education community. Another great benefit is that since Hot Chalk can be accessed from any computer, a teacher can write lesson plans, grade papers, and make assignments from anywhere. Teachers no longer need to stay late at school afterhours performing these tasks.

With HotChalk's *MyLibrary*, you will:

- **Engage** students with an unprecedented freedom of choice to select and deliver the content that best fits your needs, enhancing daily lessons
- **Access** free teacher-approved lesson plans and thousands of videos and content from the best producers in digital education, including History Education, McGraw-Hill Education, National Geographic, NBC News and PBS
- **Locate** and access quickly and easily the content you need - within seconds - through an intuitive and powerful Web 2.0 search engine
- **Preview, download and stream** free and premium video content
- **Upload** your own content
- **Collaborate** with a growing global community of hundreds of thousands of educators



Video information copied from Hot Chalk.com

What concerns exist over Hot Chalk?

Despite all that Hot Chalk has to offer to its users, many drawbacks and concerns do exist. The first concern that many reviews have stated is that the video resource ability that is so beneficial for a Social Studies classroom is also much too costly for many schools to afford. Certainly the average teacher could not afford the price of many of the packages, such as \$1,299 for the NBC LEARN Social Studies Grade 9-12 package. Though pricing is meant for school-wide usage, one would have to convince others that the benefit is worth the high price.

A second concern that reviews have stated is that since the technology is over the internet, there is no guarantee that the information is completely secure. A teacher placing his or her grade book, lesson plans, and test information online will obviously be very vulnerable to a clever student hacking onto the teacher's Hot Chalk account. All a student would need to complete this hack is the teacher's username and password, and this hack could be done on any computer that the student has access; the teacher would never know who is to blame.

A final concern that some have is that Hot Chalk is simply not needed in today's schools. Reviews cite that schools today already provide teachers with interactive grade book programs on classroom computers, which then can be transferred through an external flash drive. These programs are much more secure, as they can only be accessed on school computers and teacher's home computers. As well, with widespread, portable, laptop computer usage, the need to access the grade book from different computers is not needed.

What NET Standards does Hot Chalk cover?

By using Hot Chalk, a teacher would be covering each aspect of the NET Standard for Teachers IV- Assessment and Evaluation. This is due to Hot Chalk allowing teachers to apply technology to assessing students through the online interactive grade book. Once grades have been inserted, Hot Chalk allows teachers to analyze and interpret the data collected. Students can then see their grade by using their passcode, thus allowing students to monitor their progress and productivity in a course. All of this is done using the technology of a Web 2.0 program over the internet on a computer. As

well, students will be fulfilling the NET Standard for Students IV- Technology Communications Tools by using Hot Chalk to communicate with others and teachers through the use of the technology.

Concluding Thoughts on Hot Chalk

Since 2004, Hot Chalk has been working to make the lives of educators better through providing convenient features that work within the needs of both teachers and students. Through making all of their features easy to access, easy to understand, and easy to use, Hot Chalk has exceeded their goal. The ability to write lesson plans and make grade books online open up a range of possibilities for teachers, but also provides for a new challenge of facing online hackers, often in the form of students. The video resource feature is great for enhancing learning through visual aids, but at the same time this feature is only available for an extremely high price. Granted that Hot Chalk is free to use for all features, save for the video resource, makes Hot Chalk a very useful technology in the field of both Social Studies education and general education. As well, with Hot Chalk proudly claiming over 400,000 registered teachers as members, the technology has clearly been well tested and well received. Hot Chalk is convenient, helpful to teachers, and always improving their features; making Hot Chalk a very exceptional technology to teachers.



Connecting Teachers, Students & Parents

References

<http://www.hotchalk.com> - Hot Chalk

<http://www.iste.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=NETS> - NET Standards

<http://www.stumbleupon.com/url/www.hotchalk.com/> - User Reviews

<http://www.killerstartups.com/Web20/hotchalk-com-your-classroom-website> - Review

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/SSJH.htm> - Hot Chalk Lesson Plans