

Newletter from the ES

Council for Teaching & Learning



November 2024

Dear Devoted Teachers,

This month we invited Jason Milke from the department of digital innovation. He and his colleague, Jenny Trombatore shared many interesting things about familiar and new technology tools we can (and should) use in our instruction.

But first- good news: MCPS has purchased licenses for [Canva](#), [KAMI](#), and [AI](#). If your school is interested, Jason and his team can lead a discussion on AI and Classroom Technologies. You can email Jason [here](#).

Now, a few words about each one. Please click the links below to access the programs.

- [AI](#): We need to figure out how to leverage AI instructionally to benefit our students because it is not going anywhere.
- [Kami](#): many new features were added that can be used instructionally with all students (for a change in instructional activity) Some of these include document reader (read aloud), where students can record their answers into the page, use the highlighter, add a text box, and teachers can upload from google docs for their students to work on.
- [Canva](#): Can connect to google - You can import from Google drive to Canva to add features or from Canva to Google. You can share anything you create in Canva in a similar way to sharing things from google.

Generally, all technology updates are given via The Wire, but updates are coming to that format as well... Did you know each school has a Technology Information Specialist (This is different from your IT specialist that helps you when your computer isn't working). Please [Click here](#) to find out who yours is!

On another related note:

- **Synergy**: Each school will have a SuperUser at the school. This person should be able to answer all of the questions. They do Tier 1 troubleshooting and help with support.

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Next month we will talk to representatives from the Maryland Blueprint. If you have questions or concerns related to that topic, please let us know in [this document](#).

Reminders:

If you have any questions about anything above or need more information from our meeting this past month, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

If you ever have any questions, concerns, or topics you'd like us to discuss at our meetings, please do not hesitate to reach out to put them in [this document](#) and we will do our best to answer them in the document, in our meetings, and in our monthly letters.

Additional information & Resources:

- [HIAT Quick Guide](#)
- [uPAR Overview from the Vendor](#)
- [Accommodations - Classroom vs. Testing](#)
- [Research supporting the use of text-to-speech](#)
- [Clarksburg's success with using text to speech for all students](#)
- [MCPS AT Support Portal](#)
- IT links: [Canva](#), [KAMI](#), and [AI](#)

Sincerely,

Your devoted CTL representatives