Hampton Roads WordCamp: 2015

**Topic**: WordPress in the Classroom

**Purpose:** To introduce teachers to WordPress.com features that are applicable to a classroom environment

**Audience:** 30 teachers that are first-time WordPress users.

**Duration**: 25minutes with 5minute Q+A

Introduction: Introduce myself and my background

-10 years teaching k-12 Social Studies all over VA

-Blogger on and off

-Great Recession forced me to look at digital tools to shift content online

-Discovered WordPress around 2011-2012/ user ever since

Topics to be discussed:

-Setting up WordPress.COM free blog

-Making a Post

-Making a Page

-Menus

-Adding Media (Note 3gigs for free anymore requires an upgrade)

-Relevant Classroom Features

-Getting Admin buy-in

-Social Media Policy

Classroom Relevant Features:

A. Privacy Features: Password Protect Posts

Make entire blog private: Dashboard🡪settings🡪reading🡪site visibility (users will need permission to see via inviting them using their email address)

B. Discussion Feature: You could post a question and have students respond to it in the comments. WordPress allows you to moderate comments and decide if you want users to have a WordPress account. Dashboard🡪Settings🡪Discussion

C. Post Feature:

As an educator you could create a post to display your lessons (for admins, parents, stakeholders to see). You could also supplement your lessons in class by shifting them online. For example, you could instruct students to visit your webpage to examine information, click on links, answer questions, view videos, listen to audio etc. You could provide more interactive lessons.

SHOW EXAMPLES OF EACH IN GIF or VIDEO FORMAT

WordPress allows the use of embedded links meaning all you need to do is cut and paste the link you want your students to visit on your site and it automatically shows-up. WordPress will normally translate these embeds into Shortcodes. Works well for Youtube

YouTube example

Audio Example

Full listing of supported embeds

http://en.support.wordpress.com/shortcodes/

D. PollDaddy Features (if time)

E. BuddyPress (if time)

E. Sharing features (if time)

F. Creating Widget (if times)

Social Media Policy🡪 Check with your district to see what is allowed/not allowed

Hampton City Schools Example:

The approved policy focuses on basic guidelines for using social media such as Facebook, Twitter or blogs.

• Staff can't post pictures of students or colleagues on personal sites without permission, and must register any sites created for work purpose with the district's IT department.

• Online posts must comply with the district's confidentiality policy, cannot contain Hampton City's logos and cannot link to the district's official website.

• Employees are allowed to use social media as a notification or teaching tool, to post class assignments or to share educational content. Interactive sites must include a posting policy and be moderated.

• It is "generally unacceptable" to post student photos, names or information on work-related sites, even with permission, unless it's for an official public-relations duty.

• It's also unacceptable to use work-related social media to socialize with students or minors in any way that violates the employee code of conduct.

For social media, I would include a statement somewhere on your website of a posting policy AND a statement that

This website collects statistics to include page and post hits, clicks, search engine terms, views by country, shares, referral and traffic data. It does not collect IP address, demographic information, geolocation data, or any other personally identifying information.

You can do this by creating a text widget and adding it to your site. There is no way to turn off stats.

Getting buy-in

1. One way to get administrative buy in is to harp on the privacy features of WordPress.

2. Go the economic route and tell how shifting lessons and information online will save paper costs/printing costs

3. Reaches students where they are at. According to Pew Research, over 50% of Americans (adults and kids) have a smart phone

http://www.pewinternet.org/fact-sheets/mobile-technology-fact-sheet/