

# Integrating Technology Tools to Meet Gifted Students' Needs

[Lynette.Breedlove@SpringBranchISD.com](mailto:Lynette.Breedlove@SpringBranchISD.com)

[Lynette.Breedlove@gmail.com](mailto:Lynette.Breedlove@gmail.com)

713-251-1901

<http://gttechtools.wikispaces.com/>

**Bold Underline**: Students can use  
All tools are free or have free version

## Live Feedback (Participation)

- Poll Everywhere (<http://www.polleverywhere.com>)
  - Create your own poll for audience members to respond via text or web, watch live results, different chart choices for output
  - Free account – 30 responses
  - Free K-12 account – 40 responses
  - No downloads – all online
  - Registration required
- **Today's Meet** (<http://todaysmeet.com/>)
  - Create your own chat room for a live or ongoing discussion via the web
  - Copy the text from the discussion into a document to save for future reference
  - No downloads
  - No registration required

## Collaborative Tools

- Google Docs (<http://www.google.com/>)
  - Create documents, presentations, spreadsheets, and forms that multiple users may edit simultaneously
  - Import docs (etc.) to make accessible to multiple users
  - Offered within Google Apps for Education – if your district has chosen
    - Accounts for each student & teacher
    - Security the district determines, allows students to collaborate within district domain but not outside
  - Requires Google account
  - No downloads – all online
- **Primary Pad** (<http://primarypad.com/>)
  - Create documents collaboratively in real time
  - Invite others to participate, each participant gets a color
  - Timeslider allows you to review the creation of the document
  - Import
  - Export to HTML, Plain Text, Microsoft Word, PDF, OpenDocument
  - No registration
- Wikispaces (<http://www.wikispaces.com>)
  - Web page (set of pages) the may be created, edited, and revised by multiple users
  - Owner of the wiki determines access for others
  - May contain text, documents, video, images, etc.
  - No downloads – all online
  - Guests can edit without joining if you set the security measures as open
  - Registration required to create a wiki

## Mindmaps

- **Bubbl.us** (<https://bubbl.us/>)
  - Mind maps
  - Exports as an image which can be saved without registering for an account
  - Invite others to collaborate, must register
  - Free version limited to 3 saves sheets (must register to save)

- Mindmeister.com (<http://www.mindmeister.com/>)
  - Mind maps
  - 3 free
  - Requires registration with email account
  - Invite others to collaborate
  - Exporting seems limited in free version
- Mind42.com (requires activation email) (<http://mind42.com/>)
  - Collaborative mindmap in real time
  - Has Skype connection so can start a Skype conversation while in Mind42
  - Exports in various formats
  - Requires registration
  - Full access is free
- Mindomo.com (requires activation email) (<http://www.mindomo.com/>)
  - Collaborative mindmap in real time
  - Requires registration
  - Easily add multimedia to mindmaps
  - 3 maps free
  - Exports

#### Graphic Organizers/Diagrams

- **Exploratree.org.uk** (requires fast activation email) (<http://exploratree.org.uk/>)
  - Many varied graphic organizers that are easily customizable
  - Can modify and create then print without registration
  - Registration required to save or invite collaborators
    - Only one collaborator may edit document at a time
- Creately.com( <http://creately.com>)
  - Collaborative diagramming
  - Free version allows 5 public diagrams with up to 3 collaborators
  - Requires registration
- Gliffy.com ( <http://www.gliffy.com/>)
  - Collaborative diagramming with great templates to start
  - Free version allows 5 public diagrams
  - Requires registration
- Cacao.com ( <https://cacao.com/>)
  - Real time collaborating to create diagrams
  - Free version allows up to 25 sheets with 15 users per diagram
  - Requires registration

#### Timelines

- All are multimedia and require registration to create (some require registration to search)
  - Dipity (<http://www.dipity.com/>)
  - Tiki-Toki (<http://www.tiki-toki.com/>)
    - 1 free timeline
  - TimeGlider (<http://timeglider.com/>)
    - 3 timelines free
    - really cool *New York Times* timeline generator (no registration required to search)
  - TimeRime (<http://www.timerime.com/>)
  - Time Toast (<http://www.timetoast.com/>)
  - XTimeline (<http://xtimeline.com/index.aspx>)

## Image Tools

- **Wordle** (<http://www.wordle.net/>)
  - Create word clouds (primarily from pasted text)
  - The size of a word in a word cloud is determined by its frequency within the text entered
  - Enter text by cutting and pasting, or enter the URL of a web site
  - Change the font, layout, and color
  - Difficult to save – must take a screen shot (print screen) and past into a document to save or print to pdf
  - WARNING – Gallery can be inappropriate
  - No downloads – all online
  - No registration
- **Tagxedo** (<http://www.tagxedo.com/>)
  - Create word clouds from pasted text, twitter ID, delicious ID, URL, etc.
  - Choose the shape of the word cloud or upload image
  - Change the color, theme, font, orientation, layout
  - History option allows you to go back to previous versions
  - Word options allow choices for punctuation, numbers, common words, & related words
  - Save as image or get an embed code
  - Must install Microsoft Silverlight which is similar to Flash
  - No registration
- **Aviary** (<http://www.aviary.com/>)
  - Online photo editing
  - No registration required

## Video Tools

- **Zamzar** (<http://zamzar.com/>)
  - Converts files or videos into usable formats – Convert YouTube videos into wmv files to use in the classroom
  - No downloads for the converter to work, sends you email with link so you can download video and save it
  - No registration required, but must have email for the file to be sent to you
- **Animoto** (<http://animoto.com>)
  - Creates videos from images you upload to music you select.
  - Basic account is free. Allows 30 second videos, not downloadable, but housed on web. Can purchase full-length videos for \$3 each.
  - Educator account is free and provides all access level features.
  - All Access account is \$30/year (which is pretty good). Allows unlimited full-length videos that you can download.
  - No downloads unless you choose to download created videos
  - Registration required
- **Jing** (<http://www.techsmith.com/jing/>)
  - Screencapture/Screencast – take a picture or video of what’s happening on your computer screen
  - Share your screencast online (flickr, twitter, facebook, screencast.com)
  - Free: 5 minute video max, no editing
  - Download required
- **Screencast-O-Matic** (<http://www.screencast-o-matic.com/>)
  - Screencast – creat a video of what’s happening on your computer screen
  - NO download
  - Free: 15 minute video max, no editing
  - Saves and exports
  - No registration

## Website Tools

- Weebly (<http://www.weebly.com/> or <http://education.weebly.com>)
  - Website builder
  - Free version
    - 2 sites max
    - unlimited pages and storage space
    - limit of 5 MB per file upload
  - Registration required

## Math and Science Resources

- **Khan Academy** (<http://www.khanacademy.org/>)
  - 10 minute tutorials primarily focused on math and science
  - New practice tools and performance tracking
  - No download
  - No registration required
- **WolframAlpha** (<http://www.wolframalpha.com/>)
  - Computation tool
  - Will provide answer and how to solve variety of equations and problems
  - Provides general computational information about a variety of topics
  - No download
  - No registration required (simply a type of search engine)
- **Math Train TV** (<http://www.mathtrain.tv/>)
  - Math tutorials by students
  - No download
- **Learning 4 Mastery** (<http://learning4mastery.com/index.html>)
  - Secondary science videos
  - No download

## Connecting

### Skype (<http://www.skype.com>)

- A phone on your computer
- Multiple connections for voice
- Computer to computer video call
- Share your desktop
- Chat capabilities
- Download required
- Registration required
- Google Chat (<http://www.google.com/talk/>)
  - Very similar to Skype
  - Google account required

## Personal/Professional Learning

- Twitter ([www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com))
  - Connect with others using only 140 characters at a time.
  - No download
  - # (hashtag) – used to categorize/tag posts to facilitate conversation
    - #gtchat – 6 pm CST every Friday, global discussion on gifted education moderated by @gtchatmod (Lisa Conrad on behalf of TAGT)
  - Carefully choose who to follow
    - @gtchatmod – moderator of #gtchat
    - @Cybraryman1 – librarian with tons of great edtech ideas and GT knowledge
    - @teachagiftedkid – GT teacher in the Houston area
    - @DazzlId and @FrazzId – GT advocates in Ireland
    - @ljconrad
    - @GiftedHF – posts links to lots of great articles (gifted and homeschool)
    - @LesLinks – GT consultant in Ireland posts lots of links to resources
    - I'm @atxteacher
  - Try an application to help you manage the information
    - Hootsuite.com – download onto your computer, has columns that lets you track different discussions as you choose (my favorite) – blocked in RRISD
    - Tweetchat.com – use this to participate in #gtchat, allows you to watch the conversation and participate more fluidly than Twitter
  - Consider reading a short article or two about Twitter
    - On Twitter: To Follow or Not to Follow (<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/follow-not-follow-twitter-nicholas-provenzano>)
    - Edu-Tweeting: Twitter – An Introduction for Teachers (<http://headthoughts.co.za/2010/11/edutweet/>)
    - Tweeting with Your Twitter Community: How to Participate in a Twitter Chat (<http://bit.ly/r4pGra>)
    - Twitter for teachers: What is Twitter and why should teachers care? (<http://slidesha.re/oXk10D>) nice overview of Twitter, but a bit long
    - Twitter in Plain English by Common Craft (video on YouTube) (<http://bit.ly/ghL37T>) really good explanation of Twitter but from a social perspective
- Google Reader (<http://www.google.com>/ choose more and select Reader)
  - Aggregates blogs and updates to websites that you choose
  - Mark those you want to keep or share
  - Similar to a personalized newspaper
  - Blogs to consider reading
    - Byrdseed Gifted (<http://www.byrdseed.com/>) by Ian Byrd
    - Unwrapping the Gifted ([http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/unwrapping\\_the\\_gifted/](http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/unwrapping_the_gifted/)) by Tamara Fisher
    - Gifted Exchange (<http://giftedexchange.blogspot.com/>) by Laura Vanderkam
- Video Resources
  - Ted Talks (<http://www.ted.com/>)
    - Talks by experts in a variety of areas world-wide
    - Downloadable directly into iTunes on your computer
    - Available through YouTube: TED Talks Channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/tedtalksdirector?blend=1&ob=4>)

- RSA: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Enlightenment
  - Similar to TED, talks by experts in a variety of areas world-wide
  - Available free through iTunes
  - Available through YouTube: RSA Channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/theRSAorg>)
  - RSA Animate have a cartoonists animating lectures - you watch animation while your hear the lecture
- Learning the Tools
  - Library 2 Play: 23 Things (<http://library2play.blogspot.com/>)
    - Blog professional development course
    - Developed in Library and Information Services Dept. at Spring Branch ISD
    - Blogging, Photos & Images, RSS & Newsreaders, Tagging, Wikis & Rollyo, Online Applications & Tools, Videos Podcasts & Nings
  - Library 2 Play 2: 11.5 More Things (<http://library2play2.blogspot.com/>)
    - Blog professional development course
    - Developed in Library and Information Services Dept. at Spring Branch ISD
    - Wordle, Wordshift, Glogster, VoiceThread, Animoto, Voki, Bookr, Skype, YouTube, TeacherTube, Twitter, Facebook, Tynchat, TodaysMeet, I-Touch Apps, Hulu, Screen capture, Sharing, Virtual Worlds, Digital Citizenship
  - Teachers as Technology Trailblazers (<http://trailblazers.wikispaces.com/>)
    - Wiki with tons of resources on web 2.0 tools
- Productivity Tools
  - [Dropbox](#)
    - Cloud product
    - Creates folder on each device and on web to save "stuff" (files, pictures, presentations, video, etc.)
    - Updates whenever wifi is available
    - Allows you to access the folders from any device or the web
    - Free for first 2.25 GB of storage (can get up to 16GB through referrals)
    - You can make folders public or share folders - you have complete control over sharing
    - [Disclosure - if you use the link above to signup for your own free account, we both get 500MB additional space free]
  - [Evernote](#)
    - Cloud product
    - Notetaking application that can be loaded and access from multiple devices
    - Take text notes, audio notes, clib web sites, photos, etc.
    - Saves notes in various "notebooks" you set up
    - Free
    - You can share pieces and parts for collaboration
    - Searchable
    - Several additional products are available with the same idea
      - Evernote Peek creates flashcard type activities on iPad
  - [Splashtop](#)
    - Allows you to remote into any computer that you set up on the account (with wifi access)
    - Whiteboard app turns an iPad into an interactive whiteboard
    - Whiteboard app is about \$20