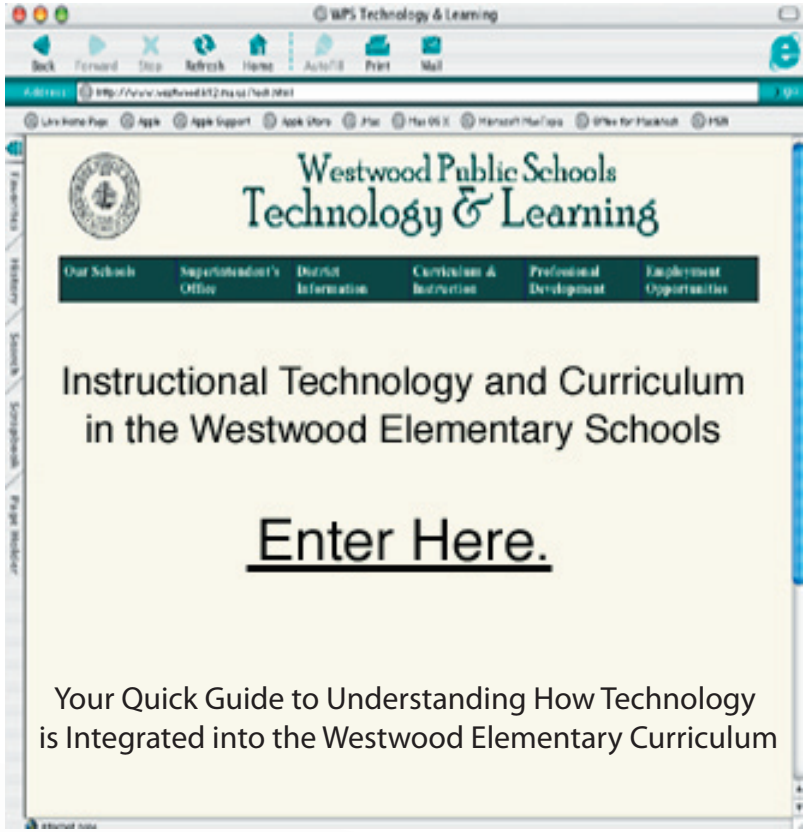
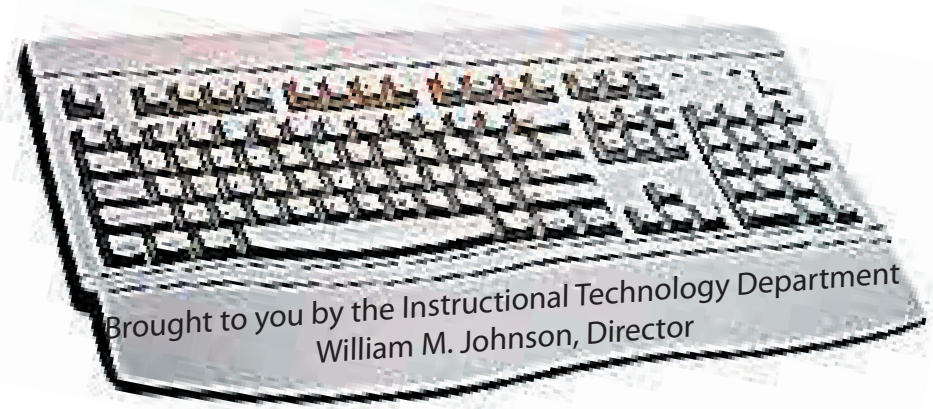
Check us out on the Westwood Public Schools web site under Curriculum/Technology and Learning at:
www.westwood.k12.ma.us/





The Instructional Technology Department

Mission Statement: The mission of the Instructional Technology Department is to support the use of technology as a powerful tool for teaching and learning. Specifically this will be accomplished by infusing technology within the various curricula, providing appropriate hardware, software and technical support, creating and maintaining a communications network, and providing effective professional development to staff.

Technology at the Elementary Schools

Educational technology is integrated into the Westwood elementary curriculum to support and enhance teaching and learning from kindergarten through grade 5. The primary goal is to support student learning through the use of productivity, communication, research and curriculum related tools. Through project based learning and research, students develop critical thinking skills and acquire technical skills along the way.

How is this accomplished? Christine Cote, Kathy Kinsman and Mary Alice Misuta, the Instructional Technology Specialists (ITS), support the use of technology to enhance teaching and learning by working directly with students and teachers in all five schools. This support is provided through staff development, planning time with teachers, collaboration, and co-teaching. In the classroom, the ITS support students by teaching new skills through class lessons and project development.

Overall Goals

1) Technology will be utilized as a tool to improve communications skills at all grade levels and in all curriculum areas.

2) Technology will be used as a tool to improve problem-solving and decision-making at all grade levels and in all curriculum areas.

3) Technology will be used as a tool to improve research skills at all grade levels and in all curriculum areas.

4) Technology will be used as a tool to enhance productivity for students, teachers, and administrators.

Examples of Elementary Software

Grade	Software
Kindergarten	*Wiggleworks - This program supports language development through reading, writing, listening and speaking. (K-2)
Grade 1	*Graph Club- A great piece of software that helps students gather and classify information by constructing graphs. (K-3)
Grade 2	TERC Software- This math software was developed for the TERC math program. Through this program, Geo Logo is introduced in the second grade measurement unit. (K-5)
Grade 3	*Kid Pix- Students can write and illustrate their own stories with the many tools this program has to offer. (K-3)
Grade 4	*Inspiration/Kidspiration- Through the use of graphic organizers students are better able to organize and communicate their ideas in writing. (K-5)
Grade 5	*PowerPoint- Students create multimedia presentations across the curriculum using Microsoft PowerPoint. (3-5)

*Single user versions of these programs are available to purchase for home use from many software resellers: educationalresources.com, smartkidssoftware.com, and academicsuperstore.com. All software listed is available for both Macintosh and PC (Windows) computers.