

# CURRICULUM CORNER

*The Official Curriculum Newsletter of Westfield Public Schools*



Your curriculum team visits classrooms across the district regularly, and we are continually impressed with and inspired by the ingenuity and creativity of Westfield educators! Great things are happening! Best practices in remote and hybrid instruction are emerging in classrooms across the district. In this issue of Curriculum Corner, we will share and celebrate some of the practices that Westfield educators are employing in their classrooms.

## **We Want to Hear from You!**

Are you trying something in your classroom that might help others? We would love to hear about it! Please send us an email about your best practices! We would also love to hear your thoughts about future topics that you would like to see in an upcoming issue of the Curriculum Corner. [Submit here!](#)

# Westfield's Best Practices

**Scheduling Appointments:** Are you wondering if there is a streamlined process to scheduling student meetings? Some school counselors and teachers are using Appointment Slots through Google Calendar. Slots allows students to schedule meetings in your Calendar at designated times. The link to Slots can even be inserted into your email signature. Here is a [brief video](#) that describes how to do this!

**Student Checklist:** In [this video](#), Joe Mullett, grade 8 Science teacher, walks you through how to make a student checklist. This is a clear way to show students high priority assignments and give them the visual they need to help them complete the work. Checklists are particularly helpful for students that have fallen behind.

**Community Support Resources:** Stephanie Morris, WTA English teacher, includes Westfield community information in her Google Slide decks. Each week, she checks the Facebook pages of WPS, WTA, Westfield EATS, Greater Westfield Boys and Girls Club, Westfield Athenaeum, and community forums. Steph takes screenshots and then adds live links to her slides. Providing this info to students ensures access to this information, especially those who may be too shy or afraid to ask for help. See a sample of these slides at [this link](#)!

**Independent Activity Slide:** Here's a neat idea! When your hybrid students are engaging in an independent learning activity, have them remain on the Google Meet. Help them to stay connected to the classroom by sharing a slide [like this one](#) by Kevin Grady, grade 7 Writing teacher. In this slide, Kevin includes a countdown timer and a music link. While students work independently for 10 minutes, they know exactly how much time remains for the activity, and the music reminds them that they are part of a community of learners even when they are working from home.

**Inquiry:** Kassondra Marshall at Highland gets her ELL students engaged by posing questions at the start of the lesson and allowing students to "figure it out!" The student pictured on the right is figuring out ways to stop a landslide! If students cannot go hands-on, try brainstorming with students and using simulations to help them create their own answers!



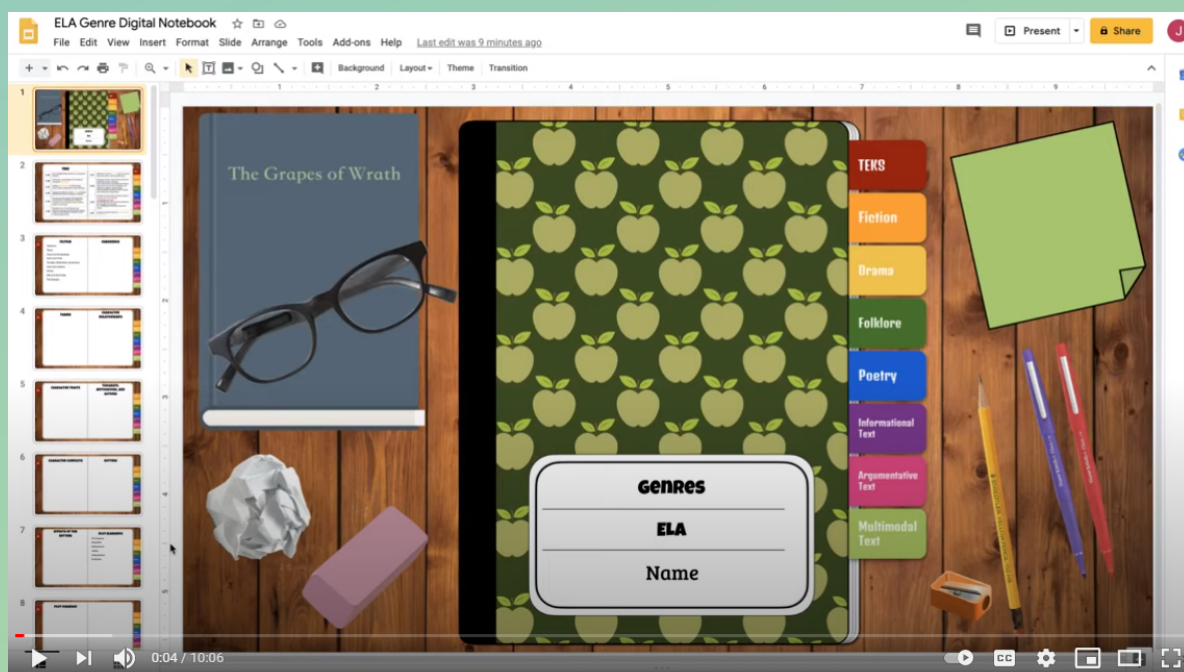
# TECH TIP!

## Editing Slides After Posting Them

Has this happened to you? You create a Google Slideshow and post it to Google Classroom. Students make a copy of your slideshow and get busy with their work. Then students begin asking questions. You open your slideshow and realize that you forgot to include the directions! ☹️ Or have you started planning a lesson that you know will take multiple days, but you are hesitant to post the entire slideshow? No sweat, there is a solution!

It is now possible to update your original slideshow and push the updates out to students! Remember the old days when you may have had a file folder with your master copy of the assignment? Now you can make a master copy of your Google Slideshow! Students will see an "Update" icon. When students click "Update," the slideshow will reflect the changes you make to your master copy.

This video describes how to make a master copy of a slideshow for use with an interactive notebook. The process is the same for any type of slideshow. **Click on the image below to view the video.**



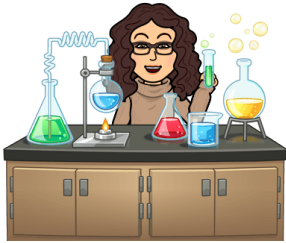


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# Contact Us

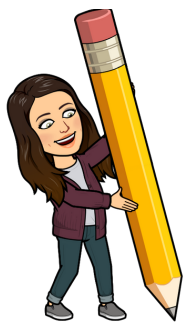
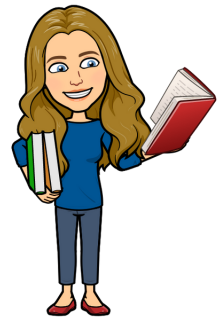


If you have additional ideas, suggestions, or questions, please share them with us!



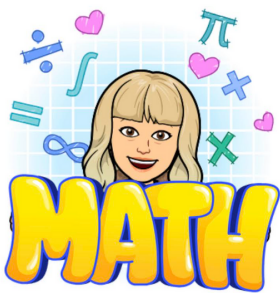
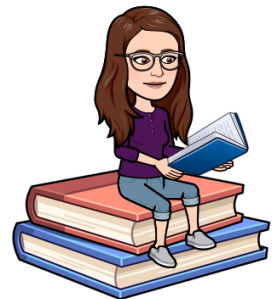
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