



EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS

DREAM IT. DO IT.

# EACS Technology Newsletter March 26, 2021

1. **For all K-8 math teachers: Are you familiar with [Geoboard](#)?** Previously included in a newsletter years ago, the [Geoboard](#) website has updated tremendously, and so has the free [Geoboard App](#) in the App Store. [Geoboard](#) offers kids a virtual geoboard on which they can wrap bands around pegs to build and contort shapes. Students can choose from a small board (with widely spaced pegs) or a larger board (with pegs that are close together), and grid lines on the boards can be displayed with numbers to help kids calculate area and perimeter. There's also an option for a circular board so kids can explore angles, fraction models, and time measurements. There are eight band colors to choose from, and the colors can be changed even after they are used on the board. Students can copy and move shapes around the board to explore concepts like symmetry, transformations, and congruence.



2. **For all teachers K-12 looking for more ways to engage students: Have you heard of the [Wonderment](#)?** The [Wonderment](#) is a website that seeks to build global awareness, empathy, and engagement through kids' shared exploration of the world around them. Kids encounter individual "wonders" (such as "Hear Your World," where kids capture a real-world sound and submit it to their classmates). Kids start by registering with an email address and create an avatar that they can then use to visit different learning "Paths" on the site to explore different themes. There's a monthly theme and some weekly Paths to explore, and kids must address their chosen Path's challenge and submit their creation before exploring other kids' work. Kids can add their own creative content, a comment, or a sticker, and their submission will cause the Wondermeter to rise. Users can also use their actions to earn the right to update and outfit their bot beyond its simplest, default settings.



3. **For all teachers of writing: Have you heard of [StoryJumper](#)?** [StoryJumper](#) is a free website that lets students create and publish their own illustrated stories. Whether students are beginning writers or brushing up on their skills, [StoryJumper](#) provides an outlet for students to use their imaginations as well as learn some real writing strategy if they're ready for it. The simple interface auto-saves students' progress as they drag and drop images to illustrate their stories and add text. The Classroom Edition for teachers includes a separate dashboard and a handful of helpful features. Place your link in your Canvas course and go...



4. **For all Staff: More from the IDOE's Cybersecurity for Education Toolkit: Use Antivirus Software:**

The most important thing you must do is to install antivirus software on all your devices to make sure you're protected no matter what you're using. (The EACS technology department already has antivirus software on EACS devices.) This will ensure you will avoid many cyberattacks by default or at least you'll get a notification on what seems suspect and needs more attention from your part. As a young adult, it might be hard not to expose many aspects of your personal information online, so protecting your online presence is crucial and worth the costs.



**Fun Technology Fact:** Ever wonder what the facemasks we have all been wearing look like under a microscope? A team of researchers at the National Institute Standards and Technology put the cloth face masks people use during COVID-19 under a microscope to understand how different materials perform in protecting the wearer. Go [here to read more of the article; find out what they look like.](#)

