

# INSTRUCTIONAL TECH LETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE YPS INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

ISSUE TWO

## VISION STATEMENT

Technology facilitates the purposeful integration of learning within all subject areas, allowing for classroom and home accessibility and creating a personalized learning environment. Instructional technology is both content-based and helps enrich student lives, preparing them for jobs that have yet to be created.

## TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM



Technology in the classroom will help aid in the Yonkers instructional foci of accountable talk, critical thinking and checking for understanding. Instructional technology is the vehicle used to provide enhanced opportunities for rich multimedia collaborations and communications within and beyond the classroom.

## FREE APPS YOU DID NOT KNOW EXISTED (SCHOOLGY LINKED!)

### EVERFI

EVERFI empowers educators to bring real-world learning into the classroom and equip students with the skills they need for success — now and in the future.

[www.everfi.com](http://www.everfi.com)



### COMMON LIT

Organization dedicated to ensuring that all students, especially students in Title I schools, graduate with the reading, writing, communication, and problem-solving skills they need to be successful in college and beyond.

[www.commonlit.org](http://www.commonlit.org)



### CANVA

Canva is a free-to-use online graphic design tool. Use it to create social media posts, presentations, posters, videos, logos and more.

[www.canva.com](http://www.canva.com)



Draw doodles, notes, and shapes



# APPS PROVIDED BY YPS ON SCHOOLGY & CLEVER

## PRE-K ON MY WAY

Available for all Pre-Kindergarten teachers and students. Access the platform through Schoology or Clever

[www.teacher.scholastic.com](http://www.teacher.scholastic.com)



## IXL

The IXL platform is a personalized digital learning space that is available for ELA and Math 2-12 curriculum as well as Science and Social Studies for grades 2-8.

[www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com)



## FLOCABULARY

Flocabulary is a learning program for all grades K-12 that uses educational hip hop music to engage students and increase achievement across the curriculum.

[www.flocabulary.com](http://www.flocabulary.com)



## ACHIEVE 3000

Achieve 3000 is designed to help students advance their reading skills by providing differentiated instruction tailored to each student's reading ability level. Available for all 3-12 teachers as well as Title I and Title 3.

[www.achieve3000.com](http://www.achieve3000.com)



## BRAINPOP

BrainPOP is a video platform that uses animated characters to educate students. Available for all subjects as well as BrainPop ELL for ENL students and BrainPop Jr. for K-3.

[www.brainpop.org](http://www.brainpop.org)



## DISCOVERY ED

Discovery Education is a supplemental digital resource that enriches science instruction by providing educators and students with inquiry-based, interactive digital content.

[www.discoveryeducation.com](http://www.discoveryeducation.com)

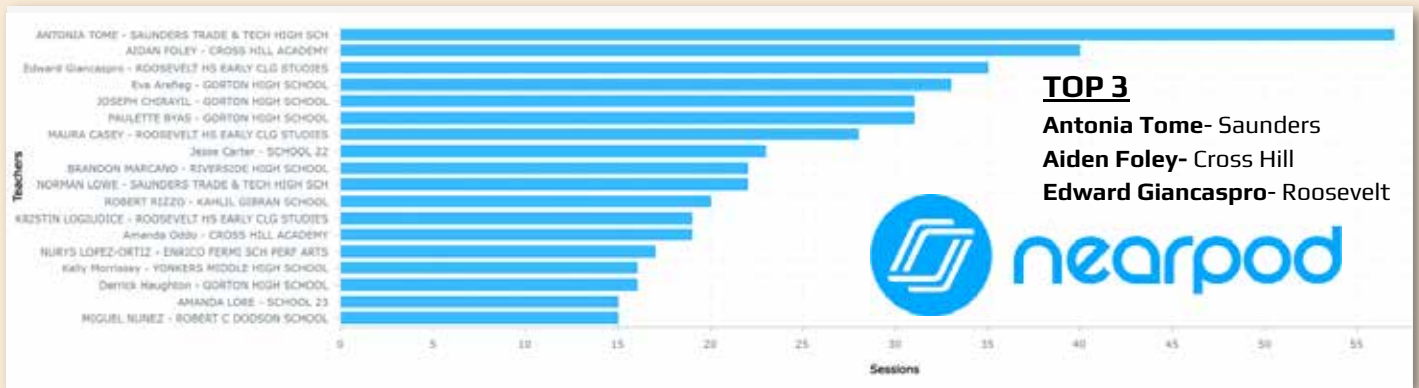


## YPS ALSO OFFERS THE FOLLOWING:

**NEARPOD** (ALL GRADES) | **CASTLE LEARNING** (ALL GRADES) | **SEESAW** (PRE-K & K) | **ACTIVELY LEARN** (GR. 6-8)

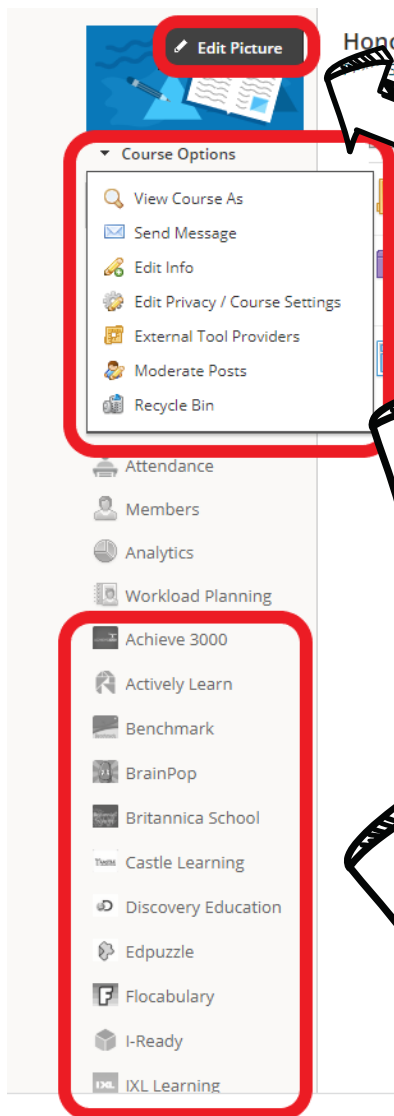
# NEARPOD DATA

## OUR DISTRICT'S TOP USERS



# SCHOOLGY BREAKDOWN

TIPS & TRICKS TO GET THE MOST OUT OF SCHOOLGY

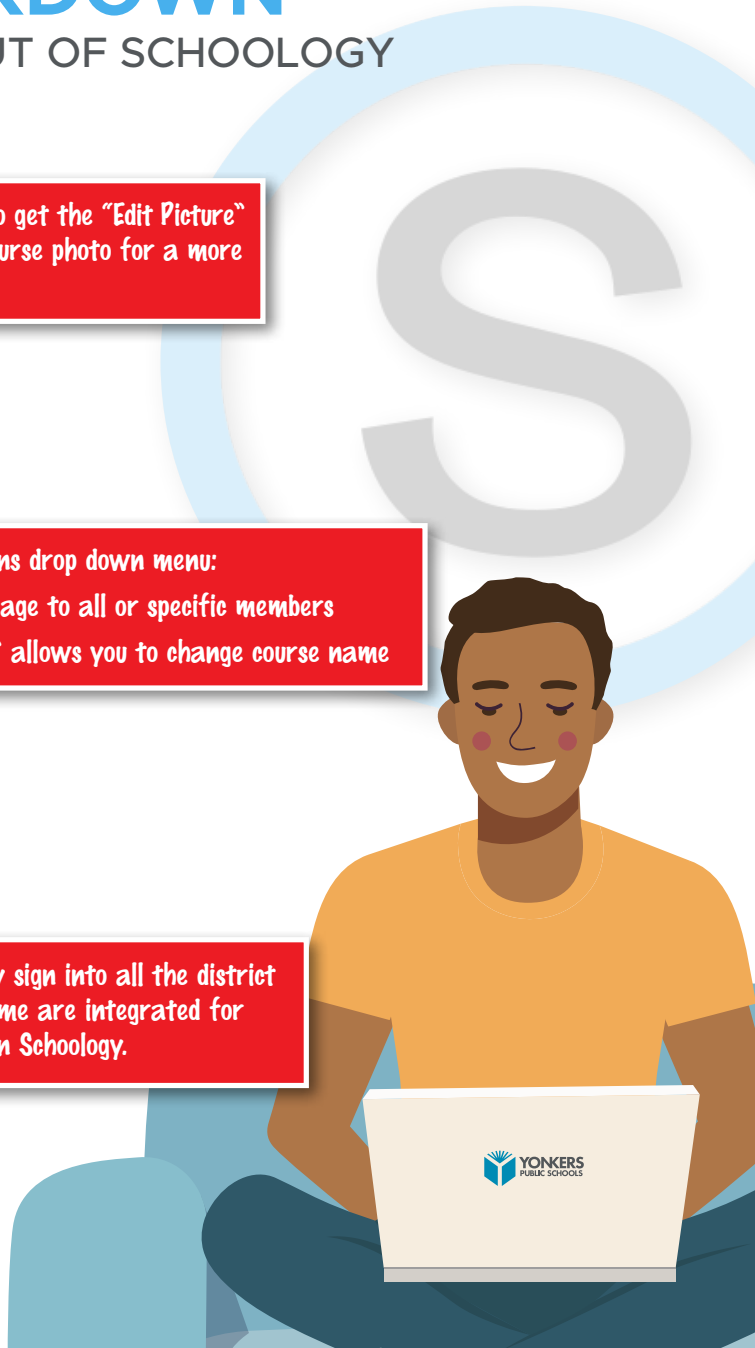


Hover over the icon to get the "Edit Picture" pop up. Change the course photo for a more welcoming class.

Course options drop down menu:

- Send message to all or specific members
- "Edit info" allows you to change course name

You can easily sign into all the district platforms. Some are integrated for grading within Schoology.





# WHAT'S NEW?

## SCHOOLGY PARENT LOG IN

All parent Schoology logins are managed by the teacher.

- Teachers have access to what parents can and can't see.
- Create a group to disseminate information to parents.
- Send out parent codes to grant access.
- Use the QR code for a parent HOW-TO
- Allows for easy communication with parents.
- Find a HOW-TO in the Schoology HelpDesk Course or scan the QR code



SCAN HERE FOR THE PARENT HOW-TO



**YONKERS SMART START**

**Sign up Today**

**Smart Start Year 2 - Inquiry Based Learning PD**

15 November - TUESDAY  
22 November - TUESDAY  
30 November - WEDNESDAY  
6 December - TUESDAY  
17 January - TUESDAY  
24 January - TUESDAY (Reflection Session)

**NEW & EXCITING COHORT 2B**

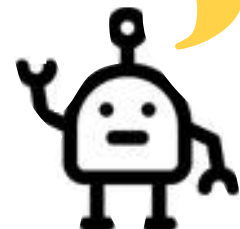
5th & 6th Grade focus but all grades are welcome and encouraged to attend as well as specialists (Reading, Special Education, ENL)  
TIME: 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
LOCATION: Gorton High School  
Register Online Through Frontline (MLP)

## SMART START NEXT COHORT

Teachers interested in joining us in backward design and incorporating drones or robots into their lessons sign up for our next cohort!

A total of 5 afterschool sessions allow teachers to work collaboratively and design lessons around tech!

If you are interested, please sign up on **MY LEARNING PLAN**.  
For more information, please reach out to Elan Kheyman at [ekheyman@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:ekheyman@yonkerspublicschools.org)



# WHAT'S NEW?

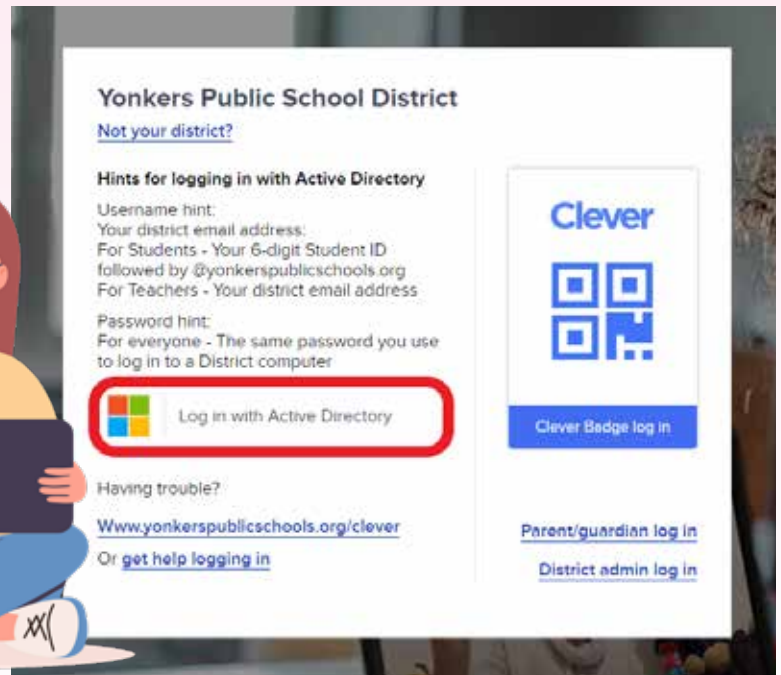
## NEW CLEVER SIGN IN OPTION

You might have noticed a new sign in option on Clever. We are now using an **Active Directory**. All users can access Clever just by clicking the "Log in with Active Directory" button. To access Clever from outside a school building users can still click the button however they will be required to enter their credentials.

**ID:** ID# @yonkerspublicschools.org  
**PASSWORD:** same as school password

### QUESTIONS?

Reach out to Elan Kheyman, Director of Instructional Technology & Innovation  
[ekheyman@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:ekheyman@yonkerspublicschools.org)



Course Options

Materials

Updates

Gradebook

## Yonkers Instructional Technology: Help Desk

Yonkers Public School District

### Announcement:

If you need quick assistance please message course admins by going to [C](#)  
[X](#) Remove



Add Materials

Options



Schooly Questions

All teachers have been added to a Schoology course titled "**Instructional Technology Help Desk**"

This group will be updated daily with files, videos, and instructions on all the district platforms available.

Please check here before reaching out for assistance on any specific program.

Any questions can be posted under:



Schooly Questions

Post any questions or comments you may have.

## GUIDED COURSE

One of the folders located on this page is a guided course that can help you learn about creating assignments, developing materials, and course set up.



SCHOOLY SELF GUIDED COURSE



Feel free to work your way through this material. If you finish the course please reach out and I will be happy to add more advanced self guided courses.

Elan

# 6

# SUCCESS TIPS FOR SCHOOLGY



Tips that will save you time. Direct quotes from teachers.



## 1

### USE A CUSTOM PICTURE!

“I have found it so helpful when I need to tell my students where to go. I simply have to say ‘go find the rainbow’ or ‘look for the yellow word “algebra” when talking to my students and I have found it actually makes a huge difference!”



## 2

### VIEW COURSE AS

“In ‘Course Options’ (under your course profile pic), choose ‘View Course As’ to see what a student sees on your course page. This resolves a lot of ‘I swear I submitted it,’ or ‘I couldn’t find it,’ or even Completion Rules problems.”



## 3

### FOLDERS

“I like that I can lay out my folders and subfolders very clearly for each unit. I color code the units as well. I also like that you can pin an announcement to the top so that it stays there.”



## 4

### FLIPPED CLASSROOM

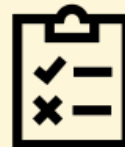
“A flipped classroom model where the unit is built in its entirety and students work at their own pace. The folders in materials can hold everything needed. You can put a completion setting so they have to do something in order to see the next step. You can un-publish future folders so they can’t see them yet and then use badges to show completion for each lesson!”



## 5

### STUDENT DISCUSSIONS

“Modify the settings in Schoology to reflect that students must post before seeing other student responses. This will ensure an original response. Then students can return to the post and reply on their first post with new information.”



## 6

### ASSESSMENTS

“One thing I like is Schoology’s assessment feature. They have many different ways to build test questions.”





# ABOUT IXL

IXL is available to all teachers grades 2-12 for Math and ELA supplemental material as well as grades 2-8 for Science and Social Studies. IXL is aligned to all NYS standards as well as NWEA MAP Growth.



**CLICK ANY BOX BELOW  
TO SEE IXL MAPPED STANDARDS**

MAP Math K-2

MAP Math 2-5

MAP Math 6+

MAP Reading K-2

MAP Reading 2-5

MAP Reading 6+

NYS Math Standards

NYS ELA Standards

Science Standards 2-8

S.S. Standards 2-8

ELA Regents Exam

SAT



We've answered **1,470,886** questions this year!

Skill gains across district



## TOP SCHOOLS USING IXL

HIGH SCHOOL



Yonkers High School



Barack Obama School for Social Justice

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL



Yonkers Middle School (44% of teachers)



Barack Obama School for Social Justice (39% of teachers)



Casimir Pulaski School (39% of teachers)



School 17 (33% of teachers)



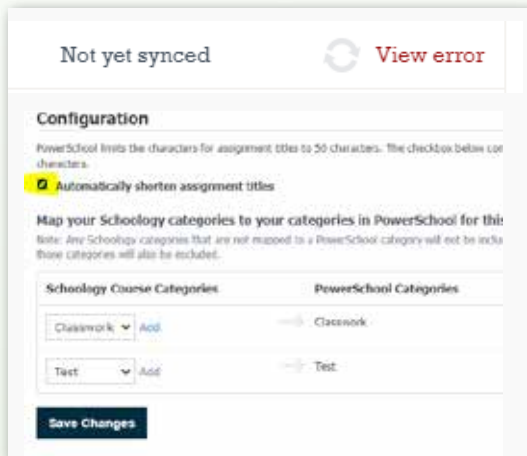
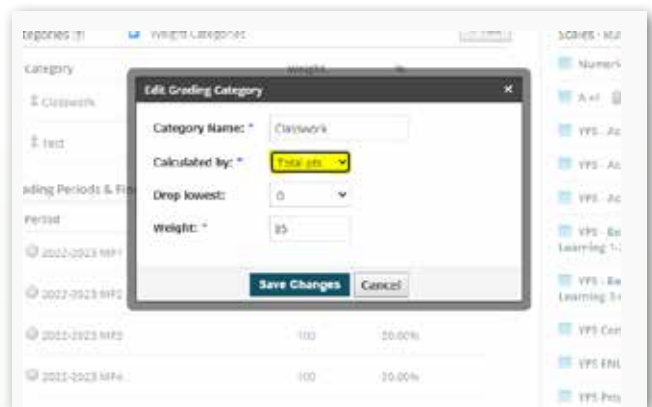
School 9 (32% of teachers)



# SCHOOLGY GRADEBOOK ISSUES FAQs

## POWERTEACHER PRO & SCHOOLGY ARE NOT ADDING UP

Each category in Schoology must be calculated by “Total pts”, not percent. The final percent is done by PowerSchool. Each category must have this setting in Schoology.

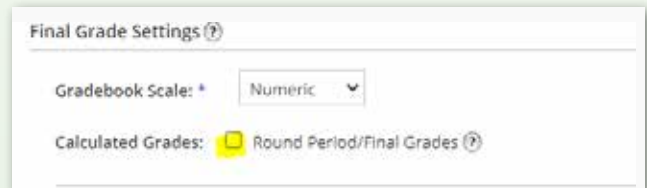


## GETTING A SYNC ERROR WITH NO REASON

Make sure to check off the box “Automatically shorten assignment titles.” PowerSchool can only take in short assignment titles. This can be found in the PowerSchool app on the left hand side. Go to the configuration tab at the top. You will see the tab there.

## GETTING A SYNC ERROR WITH NO REASON

Make sure student grades are rounded to match PowerTeacher Pro. You can find this checkbox when you go to “Grade Setup” on the left hand side.



## VISIT THE YPS INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY HUB!

ACCESS HELPFUL INFORMATION & TRAINING RESOURCES

LEARN ABOUT ALL THE WONDERFUL TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES WE HAVE TO OFFER!

[YONKERSPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG/DOMAIN/4915](https://YONKERSPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG/DOMAIN/4915)



For more information, please reach out to Elan Kheyman, Director of Instructional Technology and Innovation [ekheyman@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:ekheyman@yonkerspublicschools.org)