What is iGoogle?

iGoogle was originally named “Google Personalized Homepage” and “Google GI.” It is a free and fully accessible Google application that serves as a personalized home page, similar to that of My Yahoo! and Netvibes. iGoogle users are capable of selecting unique and personalized themes for their homepage. On this self-designed, at-a-glance information page, users can organize content such as: Gmail, top news headlines, weather forecasts, stock quotes, movie show times, games, pictures, and much more. On the iGoogle homepage, users can download gadgets which interact and appeal to the user’s specific interests. iGoogle allows the integration of all Google applications in a canvas view, that is, it permits the application full screen and functioning access. This is available for all applications including Google Reader, and Google Docs. iGoogle was first released in May of 2005 - later it was renamed, expanded and rereleased on April 30, 2007. It can be accessed in 42 different languages and over 70 countries.

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   I.1 | How iGoogle works and how to use it
II. | How iGoogle is related to other applications
   II.1 | Unique uses of iGoogle
III. | iGoogle in a learning environment
   III.1 | Elementary Education
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   III.3 | Post-Secondary Education
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IV. | How iGoogle is currently used in classrooms
V. | International
VI. | References

For an overview of this site see the handout below.

Handout.docx

I. What is the purpose of iGoogle?

iGoogle is designed as a customizable and personalized homepage. It can be enhanced with gadgets that bring news, weather, current events, and much more to the user in one simple and uniquely designed page. It provides users with a large variety of information in a very short amount of time. Since it is completely self-customized, it plays to the user's likes and desires, bringing in only the information that is personally relevant and important.
iGoogle provides its users with many different gadgets from news and weather to entertainment and games. It can be used in almost every setting imaginable. iGoogle can easily be incorporated in the world of business, by connecting all employees with Gmail, and providing the latest and most up-to-date financial information. It can also be incorporated into education very easily, with applications that involve foreign language, and connecting users to history, literature, art and science. iGoogle can open many doors for students, teachers, businesses, and general users, by increasing the speed and access to enormous amounts of information. The experience is just a few clicks away!

How does iGoogle work? How do you start using it?

For new users, it is fairly easy to get started using the amazing features of iGoogle.

1) Go to the classic Google search page.
2) Click on the “iGoogle” tab in the upper right hand corner.
3) It will require/request users to create or enter a Google account.
   - this allows Google to track the user’s searches, and uses of the program to ensure it is working properly, and to help make the sight better in the future.
4) It will then lead the user through the steps of creating his or her personalized homepage.

The link below will give you step by step image instructions on how to create your homepage.

iGoogle Account Creation

iGoogle offers its users much more than the normal Google search engine. iGoogle users are able to select a theme for their homepage - this has become a "crucial" feature as of lately because it is seen as allowing the user to create an emotional attachment to their page. There are many colorful themes that users have to choose from, and they can be changed as many times and often as desired.

Secondly, it allows users to add only the features he or she wants, such as: local weather, news, movie reviews, and much more. One of the newest features is the “web history” gadget. This additional feature allows users to look up information quicker, and without as much hassle because it creates a personalized search of all the websites that you have visited. Users can also simply delete websites from their search history, to eliminate any problems that may be associated with them.

Lastly, users can share information freely and easily with others like: writing documents, videos, audios, and much more creative information. iGoogle also allows users to subscribe to RSS feeds and blogs that will stream directly to the personalized homepage. iGoogle's main concern is personalization, to make it your homepage and your information that has been searched and shared. It also allows users to add "widgets" and "gadgets" to make certain content quickly available and accessible. Tabs that the user wants can be added, and those that are not desired can be deleted. In addition to the preset gadgets/widgets that can be added, users can also choose and create their own.

In using the gadgets, users can not only select which of these they want on their homepage, but also where on the homepage they are located. By using a "drag-and-drop" feature, users can completely rearrange their page to make gadgets appear where desired. Another feature is the cascade view, which will allow users to expand all gadgets, including Gmail, Google Finance, and Google Docs, to full screen viewing.

Below is a link to an instructional video created by Google that walks users through creating a personalized homepage.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pbf0diESX8E

II. How is iGoogle related to other internet applications?

iGoogle can relate to other applications in the sense that it allows the user to create their own homepage by selecting gadgets that the user finds useful or entertaining, such as: news, music, entertainment, games, cooking, sports, and business just to name a few. By incorporating many different types of gadgets/widgets, iGoogle can easily relate to other web applications such as YouTube, T.V. Guide.com, and iTunes. It allows the user to access their favorite websites through their homepage. In doing this it allows users to centralize all of the most important links and information desired.

It is similar to other web applications such as Yahoo and Windows Live, except iGoogle allows for the complete personalization and customization of the homepage.
iGoogle can easily be used with other applications on the web, including popular websites like YouTube and Blogger. It has an official YouTube application that can be added to the users personalized homepage, allowing easy searches and bringing in the most popular videos of the day.

iGoogle can be used with any and all Google applications which include: Gmail, Google Docs, Google Reader, Google Maps, Google Calendar, Picasa and Google News. It also has a "Wikipedia" gadget, which allows users easy access to all the information available there.

It is capable of bringing RSS feeds and blogs directly to the homepage. This allows users to keep up with what interests them without having to go to several websites - now it is all located in the same area.

iGoogle is currently going head to head with websites like My Yahoo! and Facebook. It is competing to be the top homepage and is well on its way to achieving that goal.

What are some unique ways of using this application?

iGoogle provides different "widgets" that make various "sub-applications" more accessible. Some of these include iReminder, which allows users to set up a "To Do" list. Reminders for each item on the to-do list can be sent to an e-mail or mobile device. This allows people in many occupations, including teaching, to effectively remember tasks that need to be done.

This can help in the classroom by allowing a teacher plan out a lesson plan ahead of time on iGoogle, and have it sent to his/her e-mail for when he/she needs it.

Another bonus from this application is that while many businesses and schools use Microsoft Outlook as their mail service, iGoogle can accommodate mail and calendar from Outlook on an iGoogle tab. These are just a few widgets that iGoogle has that can easily be used in the classroom and other places of work.

The best part about iGoogle is that it provides all of these great tools and services for free! This is a huge factor as to why iGoogle is the most helpful program to be used in schools and businesses all over the world.

In businesses all over the world, iGoogle is a great application for all employees. Many of the widgets that iGoogle has can allow fast access to programs that employees use on a daily basis. For instance, a few of these helpful widgets include Google Notebook Scratch Pad, iSuggest, iReminder, Timesheet Recorder, CallWave Text Messaging, and Google Calendar.

- **Google Notebook Scratch Pad**: This can be used to take down quick notes during meetings or at the user's desk. Using iGoogle, a user can tag entries, export these entries into Google documents and send them through Gmail.
- **iSuggest**: This gadget can be used to look up other websites that are related to the ones that a user is searching for. This allows more research done for the user without doing any extra work.
- **iReminder**: A useful gadget that can send reminders to a mobile device, an e-mail address, and sometimes to other programs.
- **Timesheet Recorder**: This allows users an easy way to keep track of time, minute by minute.
- **CallWave Text Messaging**: Using this gadget, users can send text messages through iGoogle instead of typing it out on their mobile device.
- **Google Calendar**: This gadget allows users to keep a calendar on their homepage. They can add events and reminders to this gadget so they can stay up to date on their work.

iGoogle has recently been added as an application for the iPhone and Android products. iPhone and Android users who add iGoogle on their mobile devices can gain full access to their iGoogle homepage through their phone. The following video shows an introduction of this feature.

III. How can iGoogle be used in a learning environment?

In the classroom, besides the gadgets, iGoogle is a great resource for students to begin research projects and to find any general information. The search tool on iGoogle is extremely easy to use and perfect for all ages. Not only is this site helpful for students, it is extremely helpful for teachers.

Teachers can use this tool to search for information they may need for lesson plans, use gadgets, and keep all of the applications they often use throughout the day in one place. The ease and convenience of the iGoogle homepage is ideal. One example is that users can have their mail from Microsoft Outlook and many other mail accounts in their main page by using special gadgets. A teacher can easily create a class iGoogle account and homepage. This would allow for students to have easy access from home or school to whatever the teacher wants them to be able to view. Some gadgets that may be helpful in the classroom include the following: To-Do-List, Notebook, Word of the Day, Top Stories, iReminder, Enhanced Bookmarks Gadget, and Make Your Own Gadget.
**To-Do-List**: This allows a teacher to not only create a daily reminder list on his/her own homepage for herself, but also create one on his/her student's homepage to keep track of daily tasks, the lesson of the day, and homework assignments that are due.

**Notebook**: Students can type quick notes while doing research or other work on the internet or computer.

**Word of the Day**: Students can expand their vocabulary by using this gadget that takes up a very small amount of space.

**Top Stories**: This is a fun and unique way that students can get acquainted with current events.

**iReminder**: Teachers can create a lesson plan ahead of time on iGoogle and have it sent to their e-mail for whenever they need it.

**Enhanced Bookmark Gadget**: Allows teachers to create a list of web links that may help enhance their students' learning.

**Make Your Own Gadget**: Teachers can create their own presentation or content to share with their students.

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**Elementary Education**

iGoogle can easily be incorporated into the elementary classroom. There are a wide range of gadgets that can be added, which could help enhance the learning experience of students at any level. Teachers can simply search the gadgets and add those they see as being useful to their own specific classroom, or plan of study. There are gadgets available for almost every subject!

iGoogle offers maps and Google Earth for the kids to learn geography, or they can use Google Group and Blogger to communicate with each other! Another great application available on iGoogle is SketchUp. It allows the students to work with visual hands on tools by making 3D sketches of ideas or problems, like learning about the area of a box, and it's a lot of fun too! [Click on this link to use Google Earth.](https://www.google.com/earth)

Using iGoogle in the classroom can make learning fun for kids! Students can use gadgets such as sudoku puzzles to help with their adding and problem solving skills in math during their free time. New tips, Spanish words, facts, jokes and quotes are offered daily to intrigue the students into learning something new every day!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>iGoogle Gadgets that could be added</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English (Vocabulary, Grammar, Reading, Writing)</td>
<td><em>Online English Grammar</em> <em>Whitesmoke Grammar Checker</em> <em>Word of the Day</em> <em>Google Reader</em> <em>Google Docs</em> <em>Dictionary.com</em> <em>Spelling Bee (Word Game)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td><em>Math Dictionary</em> <em>Free Math Worksheets</em> <em>Bee Smart Math Addition</em> <em>Bee Smart Math Timetable</em> <em>Jump Grades</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td><em>NASA Image of the Day</em> <em>Sally Ride Science</em> <em>Science for Kids</em> <em>Clouds</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies (History, Geography)</td>
<td><em>GeographyZone.com Geography Game</em> <em>Geography Game: USA Game</em> <em>Google Maps</em> <em>This Day in History</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language/English as a Second Language</td>
<td><em>Google Translator</em> <em>Online English Grammar</em> <em>Spanish Word of the Day</em> (Almost all languages have a word of the day available)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Subjects</td>
<td><em>Question of the Day for the 1st through 6th Grade Student</em> <em>Jump Grades</em> <em>Karooba Endless Education Trivia</em> <em>Art of The Day</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Elementary Lesson Plans**
Digital Museum

Overview: Students will use the internet to create a digital museum.

Objective: Students will be allowed the whole class period to explore through the exhibition and decided what they want to write or talk about to the class. The teacher will be the one who will be navigating the mouse throughout the whole time. In participating in the lesson, the students will:

- Be provided an enhancement of the digital fieldtrip experience
- Be able to open their eyes to the art exhibited as well as the experience its being presented
- Navigate where they want to go I the exhibition (for so for the 3-5th grades)
- See different art pieces and different styles

Elementary Lesson Plan.docx
Elementary Lesson Plan-1.pdf

Elementary Field Trip

Elementary Field Trip.docx
Elementary Field Trip.pdf

Trees Change

Overview: Students will learn the change deciduous go through in the phase of the seasons.

Objective: Given the webpage the teacher created, students will pick a tree and draw it throughout the seasons with 100% accuracy.

Trees Change.doc
Trees Change.pdf

Clouds, Clouds, Clouds

Overview: Students will explore the book, The Kids Book of Clouds and Sky and then review the iGoogle Clouds gadget to learn to identify the various clouds types in the sky.

Objective: Students will be able to identify the various types of clouds in the sky.

Clouds, Clouds, Clouds.docx
Clouds, Clouds, Clouds.pdf

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Secondary Education

iGoogle can be very helpful in secondary level learning situations. iGoogle has many gadgets are available for both students and teachers to use that will enhance the classroom experience. One of the most useful features about iGoogle is that it allows students and teachers to communicate effectively with each other. Teachers will be able to remind students of in class events or homework that is due, this way if students forget to write down their homework they will be able to access their assignments through iGoogle. The same situation for teachers applies as well; if a teacher were to forget to remind their students of something during class, they could send out a message through iGoogle to remind them. Teachers would have to make sure their students would check their iGoogle account regularly. Teachers can also create a countdown for assignments. This will remind students of what is due and when. This application can also be help students communicate with each other about questions, concerns, or group projects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>iGoogle Gadgets that could be added</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English and Literature</td>
<td><em>Online English Grammar</em> <em>Google Reader</em> <em>Google Docs</em> <em>Daily Literary Quote</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td><em>Math Dictionary</em> <em>Free Math Worksheets</em> <em>Step by Step Math Solving Calculator</em> <em>NumberCruncher Game</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td><em>ScienceDaily: Latest Science News</em> <em>DiscoveryNews Top Stories: Discovery Channel</em> <em>NASA Image of the Day</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td><em>Google News</em> <em>CNN.com</em> <em>Discovery News-History</em> <em>This Day in History</em> <em>Google Maps</em> <em>MSNBC.com-Politics</em> <em>Psychology Today</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language/English as a Second Language</td>
<td><em>Google Translator</em> <em>Online English Grammar</em> <em>Spanish Word of the Day</em> (Almost all languages have a word of the day available)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td><strong>Guitar Chord Finder</strong> (Create your own gadget that supplies to your specific needs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Economics</td>
<td><strong>Allrecipes-Daily Recipes</strong> (Create your own gadget that supplies to your specific needs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction and Design</td>
<td><strong>How Stuff Works</strong> (Create your own gadget that supplies to your specific needs)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not only can iGoogle be very beneficial to students and teachers, but it can also be fun! iGoogle has applications such as video chat, photo albums, and you can even personalize your iGoogle to have the settings to make it easy to navigate to your specific interests! Learning is always better and easier when it can also be enjoyable and fun!

**High School Lesson Plans**

**Reading Lesson**

**Overview:** Students will use iGoogle to enhance the reading experience.

**Objective:** Following this activity, students will be able to:

- Successfully manage and explore iGoogle for the purposes of a reading group
- Use iGoogle effectively for other assignments
- Explain to another group of students how to use iGoogle

MiddleSchoolLessonPlan.docx
MiddleSchoolLessonPlan.pdf

**Life Of A Star**

**Overview:** Following this activity, students will be able to: name the different stages of a star’s life, explain what happens during each of the stages, and work with iGoogle with ease.

**Objective:** After reasearching the different stages of a star’s life and creating a project that explains them. Students will be able to answer questions about the different stages of a star’s life with 90% accuracy.

Secondary Lesson Plan.docx
Secondary Lesson Plan.pdf

**Health/Physical Education (Dance) Lesson Plans**

**Overview:** Students will learn healthy eating tips through iGoogle, and record them in a journal in which they write about their diets and exercise plan.

**Objective:** Students will gain an understanding of the connection between healthy living and dance.

Create a Journal.docx
Create a Journal.pdf

**Overview:** Students will get into groups, research important dance careers, and use iGoogle to plan field trips to observe dancers in the professional fields.

**Objective:** Students will gain a greater appreciation for dance and learn different careers associated with dance.

Field Trip Planning.docx
Field Trip Planning.pdf

**Post Secondary Education**

This application can easily be incorporated into the post secondary classroom. iGoogle allows teachers to create a site for any specific class they wish. On this site, the teacher can place the student’s assignment, and they can create a notebook which allows the teacher to write notes for the students to access. They can also make changes to the assignments through iGoogle.

One way teachers can use iGoogle in their classroom, is through educational distance learning. This type of learning occurs when the teacher and student can be in different places at different times, or when the teacher and student are in different places at the same time. One way
teachers can effectively use distance learning is to use iGoogle and host online seminars that the students must participate in. Another way teachers can use distance learning through iGoogle can be done by having a guest lecturer during their class, or by allowing the students to see live demonstrations that the teacher or someone else has made.

Teachers can also use iGoogle by holding online office hours instead of having students come to the office to talk, the conversation can simply be held over the internet through “Google Talk.” Teachers can also connect with other colleagues by using iGoogle to discuss ideas.

A different way iGoogle can be used in post secondary education is through the students. Just like the teachers, the students can also benefit from using iGoogle in the classroom or at home. iGoogle offers an easier way for groups to communicate when working on projects. Some of these ways students can communicate is through voice or video chats with other people within the group. Through this, other students that are in the group will be able to hear and see what people in the group are thinking. Lastly iGoogle allows groups to work in ease is through the sharing of websites, notes, ideas and or resources. Instead of having to get together to work on things, students now have the opportunity to work from iGoogle to complete and create what they need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student / Teacher Needs</th>
<th>iGoogle Gadgets that could be added</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing, Journaling, and Note taking</td>
<td>“Google Docs” “Blogger” “Google Notebook” “Page Creator”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication, Email, Chatting</td>
<td>“Gmail” “Google Talk” “AIM Messenger” “Yahoo Messenger”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>“ToDo” “Countdown”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Post Secondary Lesson Plans**

**Create Page**

**Overview:** Students will learn a quick introduction on how to create a personal search page.

**Objective:** Given a computer and the internet, students will learn how to create their own personal web page with 100% accuracy.

Create Page.doc
Create Page.pdf

Below is an example of how students and teachers alike can use this amazing tool in the classroom. This diagram demonstrates how the many Google applications can be used together in conjunction with iGoogle.

View image and full article at [http://aptstairs.blogspot.com/](http://aptstairs.blogspot.com/)

**Business/Industry**
Some more areas where the iGoogle application can be used are in businesses and industries. In these two areas, the company/workplace can create a personal webpage that will supply to its specific needs. This then allows the workers to communicate back and forth with each other through Gmail or by chatting. In this way, the employees are able to receive immediate feedback from other co-workers within the company. A second way iGoogle can be used to organize business information is through the use of Google Calendar. A few of the ways Google Calendar can be used to organize information is by having managers and owners post important announcements and events that may be important to the workers. This allows the workers to see what events are going on within the business and it also saves time and money for the people who are sending out announcements and updates.

A different way that iGoogle can be used in businesses is during faculty/business meetings. Instead of handing out papers for the employees to review during and after the meeting, the presenter or manager can create a presentation and display it on iGoogle. This allows anyone within that business/company to see what went on during the meeting, and the meetings now can be run more efficiently and with ease.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office Need</th>
<th>iGoogle Gadgets that could be added</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication, Email, and Chat</td>
<td>&quot;Gmail&quot; &quot;Google Talk&quot; &quot;AIM Messenger&quot; &quot;Yahoo Messenger&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization and Documentation</td>
<td>&quot;Google Docs&quot; &quot;Google Notebook&quot; &quot;ToDo&quot; &quot;Countdown&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News</td>
<td>&quot;Google News&quot; &quot;CNN.com-Top Stories&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

International

iGoogle is available in 70 different countries, and in 42 different languages. Here are five ways to use it to easily bring an international aspect to your classroom or business:
• Use Google Talk to communicate effectively with people all around the world. Not only does Google Talk create ease of international communication, but it is also extremely easy to access. Google Talk has the capability of not only running on computers in many different versions but it can also be used on mobile devices and other electronic internet devices.
• Use an application called Google Translator. This application allows ease of understanding translations from international countries. This allows international communication to be more effective and more convenient.
• Set up video conferences using the iGoogle homepage.
• Stay informed on international breaking news and current events by having this news directly streamed to their own personalized homepage.
• Post blogs, videos, and other information to share with people all over the world.

iGoogle has become one of the easiest ways to interact with anyone globally.

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## IV. How is iGoogle being used in the classroom?

iGoogle is an amazing tool that can easily be brought into the classroom and give it a new twist to learning. It is an amazing tool that is free of cost and can quickly bring the whole world wide web into the classroom. There are many applications that can be added for almost any subjects the students are working on. Also, teachers can use iGoogle in the classroom it is not just for students. Lesson plans, maps, and list making are all great ways that teachers can incorporate iGoogle into the classroom. The great part is that the apps can be added in just a few mouse clicks and again it is free! Below are a few enhancements that can be added to a lesson plan that can be easily provided by iGoogle:

### Language Arts-Reading, Writing, and Vocabulary

Many of the different applications on iGoogle can be used to help the educators teach to the specific needs of students. Some that can easily be incorporated are “Quotes of the Day”, “Word of the Day”, “Daily Literary Quote”, and “Match Up (Word Game)”. Each of these can bring variety into the classroom and help with everyday lesson plans. Quotes of the Day can be used to spark ideas for writing prompts and even for discussion ideas in the classroom. The Online English Grammar gadget can be used to show and help students learn about their mistakes in grammar. It can also help them before they make their mistakes in their paper. Major problems in writing are proper grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and parts of speech, and all of these things are addressed in the Online English Grammar gadget. The Match Up word game will bring fun into the classroom and make students excited to learn Language Arts. Then for the educator, the teachers can always get ideas for spelling test from the Word of the Day gadget. The possibilities are endless with the world of Google.

**Daily Literary Quote**

“A creation of importance can only be produced when its author isolates himself, it is a child of solitude.”

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

(German Writer)

### Science

There are near limitless possibilities that will allow students to go beyond the classroom. In doing a space or universe unit, NASA gadgets can easily be added and incorporated to enhance the learning experience. NASA offers a live video feed, and an image of the day, allowing students to see and experience new things. Along with a space unit incorporating NASA, the “Sally Ride Science” gadget could also be used, it is designed to spark interest in children about space exploration and science in general.

Other gadgets that offer great possibilities for the class to learn are the “Discovery News Top Stories: Discovery Channel” and “This Week in Science” both of these will bring the cutting edge of science directly into the classroom, and open new doors to students.
Math

There are several gadgets devoted to furthering the understanding of mathematics, and many can easily be used to help enhance students learning as well. For the teacher there is “Free Math Worksheets form MWO” which will supply math sheets appropriate for many different ages.

For students there are several educational tools that can be used quickly and easily the “Step by Step Math Solving Calculator” can walk students through difficult math problems, and break it down piece by piece; it is great for difficult homework. Another great tool is the “Math Dictionary” which allows the teacher or student to look up difficult math terms.

For younger students there are also several great features that iGoogle can help with. A gadget called “Jump Grades” offers a personalized tutoring program, that assesses the students needs and then facilitates to them. (This is also available for reading.)

But there are other gadgets that will bring a little educational fun into the classroom as well. For younger students “Bee Smart Math Addition (Spider Attack)” and “Bee Smart Math Times Table” both of which provide students with great practice. For more advance learners there are a few options as well the “NumberCruncher Game” and “Math in a Minute.”

Social Studies

This subject matter can easily be enhanced with iGoogle. For current events, a RSS feed can be added to the homepage that will bring all sorts of breaking news stories right into the classroom. There are also gadgets that can be added to supply students and teachers alike with current events “Google News” “CNN.com-World” and “Time-Top Stories” just to name a few.

When teaching Social Studies, current events are not the only important thing that needs to be talked about. The history of our world is very important and it explains who we are today. The application “This Day in History” can be added onto the iGoogle page and can allow students to learn what significant event happened each day of the week. I think this is a really good application because no searching is necessary to find out what the event is. A great idea to get students more interested is to have them get online and then research the event. Also incorporating other online resources, they can do an online journal about the historic day and what they learned about it. This is a great way to get students excited about learning and for teachers to evaluate what they learned.

Geography can also be assisted by iGoogle students can access the “GeographyZone.com’s Geography Game” which will have them put the world or certain countries or continents together. There is also the “Geography Game: USA Game” which has players put the US in order. Both of these games can help students learn the placement of states and countries around the world. Another way that geography can be enhanced with iGoogle is through the Google Maps gadget that can be added. This will allow students and teachers alike to view and zoom in on almost any part of the world they would like.
English as a Second Language and Foreign Language

There are many ways to bring Foreign Language learning into the classroom with iGoogle. There are gadgets that include “Spanish Word of the Day” which provides students with a Spanish word and its English equivalent. But it also provides phrases for students to learn. It also allows them to hear the word with the "Audio Word of the Day." Also available in iGoogle, is Google Translator. This allows users to get type in a passage/phrase/word, and have it translated into the language they desire.

Other and Combined Subjects

Some applications/gadgets are designed as educational games, and trivia games. Teachers also have the option to create gadgets. This would give the teacher the ability to create specifically designed programs for the students to access, like trivia games, or vocabulary workouts etc.
For more information on how iGoogle is currently being used in classrooms look at the following websites:

http://ism-online.org/techthink/archives/13
http://www.google.com/educators/p_php.html

To Research and access more iGoogle Gadgets click the link below:

http://www.google.com/ig/directory?hl=en&type=gadgets

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iGoogle Full Wiki Text