

Battlefield teacher feathers cap with Google Apps for Education certification

By JAMES IVANCIC
Observer staff

Helping students use technology to its fullest in their studies is what Keith David Reeves aims to do in his job as the instructional technology resource teacher at Battlefield High School in Haymarket.

He's more than a "tech guy" who knows his way around a computer, as he points out during an interview in his office. He is a teacher who is a presence in classes throughout the four-grade school, assisting other teachers and helping students as they use technology in learning the curriculum. He doesn't teach his own schedule of classes but he comes in contact with all of the students at the high school through his work. "I have 2,900 kids," he said.

Reeves isn't an administrator; he has a 10-month teaching contract. The school division "gets more bang for the buck" in his dual role as educator and tech guy. "There is so much return on the investment if this position is done well. I'm off the leash and can do that," he said.

The native of Syracuse, N.Y., has a bachelor's degree in music from Ithaca College. He was a band



James Ivancic / the Bull Run Observer

Keith David Reeves helps students and faculty at Battlefield High School incorporate computer technology into classroom learning.

director of middle and high school music programs, and music continues to be part of his life. He serves as a judge in music competitions. He has a master's degree in education from George Mason University and has done postgraduate work at the University of Mary Washington, the University of Phoenix and the

University of Troy. The Arlington resident also teaches at George Washington University. He has been at Battlefield for five years.

Reeves received a feather in his cap by earning the Google Apps for Education Certified Trainer credential. He is one of only 57 educators in the world to receive that credential, and he believes he is the only one in Virginia at the moment to have it.

The Google Apps for Education program allows schools to create and share a variety of online documents and video, build websites; create forums, calendars and mailing lists, use Gmail and instant messaging. Prince William school district policy currently bans the sharing of video on its Internet site.

"A school with its own domain [on the Internet, such as Battlefield] has the ability to create an umbrella under which we can deliver to any user access to what Google has to offer," Reeves explained.

He believes Battlefield is the only Prince William school that creates a Google Apps account for every adult and child in the building. Putting greater reliance on electronic communication also prompted the school to set a goal of reducing paper consumption by 50

percent within five years. The school reached that goal this year, two years ahead of schedule.

"I've been using Google products for years," Reeves said. "I took the tests [for certification] online and checked out the training center to make sure I was up to speed." The process to earn the certified trainer credential was done online and took three weeks to complete. The testing established that he had the technical know-how. He also had to complete an essay and submit recommendations from others who know about his professional work. He received notification in October that he was approved as a certified

trainer. He can now help "spread the gospel of Google" and what it can do to help teacher colleagues and students. Certification as a trainer will allow him to teach students "how to apply Google in a more effective and meaningful way."

While companies are driven by profit, "We can't be driven by profit or money" as educators, he said. "The students' need to learn comes first. If not, we are betraying the public trust." His concern is whether the best is being done with the technology at hand, he said.

More about Reeves is on the school's website: reeves.battlefield.grouppfusion.net.

