

# "Tech It Up A Notch"

## Technology Event at Missouri School for the Blind

- Who:** Students who are Blind/Visually Impaired grades 6-12
- Where:** Missouri School for the Blind (MSB)  
3815 Magnolia  
St. Louis, Missouri 63110
- When:** March 29, 2012
- What:** MSB's first-ever Tech It Up a Notch Event will provide students hands-on access to software and/or devices designed for students who are blind and visually impaired in a supported setting.
- Students will have the opportunity to choose **three** sessions in which they can explore devices and software, *or* demonstrate their skills in competitive rounds.
- Prizes:** Prizes will be awarded to overall competition winners in the Middle School (6-8) and High School Divisions (9-12). **Prizes include: two iPads, two LiveScribe Pens, Adaptive ADL equipment and more!** In addition, students may enter to win door prizes. A drawing will be held during the closing assembly.
- Why:** MSB recognizes the importance of equipping students who are blind and visually impaired with cutting-edge technology skills so that they can compete in the global society.
- Goals:** By the end of the Technology Event, participants will:
- Explore various types of assistive and adaptive technology
  - Learn about new assistive and adaptive technology and where it can be purchased or borrowed
  - Identify adaptive technology that may be helpful in their everyday lives
  - Make new social connections through activities with peers with vision loss

# Agenda

**8:00 Registration**

**8:30 Opening Session & Welcome: *Adaptive and Assistive Technology – Gateway to Success***

## **NOTES:**

- Each Round will include opportunities for both Competition and Demonstration.
- Each Competitive Round will begin with a 10-15 minute technology demonstration.
- In Competitive Rounds, students will work independently to demonstrate proficiency in the use of the technology.
- For each session which includes a reading component, there will be activities at different reading levels.
- Each Competitive Round will include an opportunity to earn bonus points by completing additional tasks.
- Select Competitive Rounds will be evaluated using Teacher's Pet software.

**9:00 Round 1**

**10:30 Round 2**

**12:00 Lunch**

**12:30 Round 3**

**2:00 Finals: Tech It Up a Notch** – An interactive whole group activity for a final chance to Show-What-You-Know! (Final session features the introduction and use of the SMART Board and LE/PE Response system)

**3:00 Awards Presentation & Closing**

Each Round will be scheduled from the activities listed below. The final schedule will be determined based on participant interest.

- 1.) **Refreshable Braille:** Students will be given a reading selection about Refreshable Braille. After reading the selection using refreshable braille, students will respond to questions about application/use of the device. Points will be awarded for correct answers. (COMP)
- 2.) **Refreshable Braille:** Students will be introduced to the refreshable braille device, and given the opportunity to try it out. Guided Activities will be provided at a variety of levels using Refreshable Braille device. (DEMO)
- 3.) **Cooking with Adaptive Equipment:** Students will use adaptive kitchen devices to prepare a food item. (DEMO)
- 4.) **APH Software:** Students will be given an opportunity to explore various APH software including, but not limited to: Talking Typer, Math Flash, etc. (DEMO)

- 5.) **LiveScribe:** Students will use the LiveScribe pen and paper to take notes from a lecture about the LiveScribe use and application, and will then answer questions based on the lecture. Points will be awarded for participation and correct answers. (COMP)
- 6.) **LiveScribe:** Students will be introduced to the LiveScribe pen, and have the opportunity to try it out. Instructors will provide a variety of guided, hands-on activities designed to introduce various aspect of the LiveScribe pen. (DEMO)
- 7.) **iPad:** Students will be introduced to the basic functions and accessibility features of the iPad and applications (Apps) designed specifically for students who are B/VI as well as Apps that may be beneficial for students who are B/VI. (DEMO)
- 8.) **Transcription competition:** Students will use Talking Typer to produce a written record of an audio file. Points will be awarded for participation, speed and accuracy. (COMP)
- 9.) **Braille and tactile production:** Participants will be introduced to the applications and functions of Duxbury software as well as the Juliet and Tiger Braille embossers to create Braille and tactile documents. Participants will participate in a guided activity in which they will create graphic and tactile images. (DEMO)
- 10.) **Managing Important Information:** Participants will use a Talking Watch, Talking Calendar, and Talking prescription bottle to manage medical information and appointments, as well as other personal information. (DEMO)
- 11.) **Text enlargement:** Participants will view demonstrations of a CCTV, Pearle/Open Book, Sapphire, Ruby, ZOOMText, and Transformer for use with enlarging text in a variety of formats. (DEMO)
- 12.) **Braille note takers:** Participants will use Braille note takers to find and edit files, and create or edit a document, and print it upon completion. Points will be given for participation, speed of completion, correct formatting and grammar, spelling, and punctuation. (COMP)
- 13.) **What Not To Wear: Clothing Identification and Labeling:** Participants will use the Match Maker, Color Mate, and Braille Labeler to identify items of clothing. Participants will then label clothing by sewing in Braille or tactile labels. Points will be awarded participation, speed and accuracy. (COMP)
- 14.) **Trekker:** Students will use the Trekker to navigate throughout MSB's building and grounds (weather permitting). Points will be awarded for participation and speed of completing the assigned course. (COMP)
- 15.) **Screen readers and enlargement:** Students will use ZOOMText, JAWS or NVDA to navigate text, computer files, operating system, and the internet to answer a series of questions. Points will be awarded for participation, speed of completion and accuracy of answers provided. (COMP)