Data:

We now have **255** high schools and ATCs registered for Imagine Academy in Kentucky!

Make sure you are also a testing site with Certiport so your students can certify!

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Microsoft EduCast Webinar Series

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2016 MOS Certifications Available

We are excited to announce the availability of the **Microsoft Office Specialist** (MOS) 2016 certification exams. These tests are the official standards-based credential for validating Microsoft Office 2016 skills. MOS certification leads the industry in performance-based testing and is recognized globally as the premier credential with 1.9 million MOS exams taken during the last school year. Top achievers were celebrated at the MOS world championship in August with students travelling from around the world to compete in the competition. The new MOS 2016 exams improve upon the previous versions by migrating from a single, large project to multiple, smaller projects. The new format allows teachers to devote more time to practicing and mastering the specific skills tested in each smaller project.

MOS exam vouchers are available for free through the MSIA member site to support professional development and validate educators' technology skills.

OneNote versions of Microsoft Official Academic Course (MOAC) 2016 curriculum

Office 2016 Microsoft Official Academic Courses (MOAC) OneNote files and PDF versions are now available for students and educators. These courses are designed to cover all the learning objectives for the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) 2016 exams. The following titles are available:

- Word
- Excel
- Excel Expert
- Word Expert
- PowerPoint
- Access

The new Office 2016 courses are available on the member site both through the resource finder and the new learning pathway. Because this content is provided as a **OneNote file, integration with an existing LMS is simplified making it easier for educators and students to navigate through the lessons**.

Announcing the 2016 MOS U.S. National Championship Fall Qualifier

Now is the time to certify and prepare to compete! We're already kicking off preparations for the 2017 MOS U.S. National Championship. Just as last year, students can compete in two qualifying periods: the Fall Qualifier and Spring Qualifier. Students across the country are already using MOS certification to qualify for the MOS U.S. National Championship. In order to be named a 2016 MOS U.S. Fall Qualifier Champion, students must earn the highest score in their state on one of the following exams:

- Microsoft Office Specialist Word 2013
- Microsoft Office Specialist Excel 2013
- Microsoft Office Specialist PowerPoint 2013
- Microsoft Office Specialist Word 2016
- Microsoft Office Specialist Excel 2016
- Microsoft Office Specialist PowerPoint 2016

For more information about the 2017 MOS US National Championship, visit ***www.moschampionship.com/kentucky***

Words of Wisdom from Our Kentucky Microsoft Trainers

Kentucky was fortunate enough this year in that Microsoft hired four of our teachers to become MOS and MTA trainers. If you were able to attend one of the trainings the first week of August, you heard from two of them. The MOS trainers are Johnny Sue Bauer from Simon Kenton High School in Boone County and Kevin Hoover from Carroll County Area Technology Center. The MTA trainers are Ed Allin from Hardin County's Early College and Career Center and Joe Beers from Jessamine County's Career and Technology Center. They have been asked to reflect on the training and give any added words of wisdom. Here is what they had to say:

Johnny Sue Bauer, Simon Kenton High School, email: johnny.bauer@kenton.kyschools.us
I had so much fun on the Imagine Academy Roadshow! I really enjoyed getting to talk with teachers about their classes and all of the resources available to them. It truly is amazing the vast amount of resources that are provided in the Imagine Academy. Anything you need to manage your classroom is available to you, whether it be curriculum, textbooks, lesson plans, online courses, or your own professional development. I think giving teachers the time to explore the resources was invaluable. They were genuinely surprised to see just how many resources were there. I know I was excited to find resources for Excel Expert certification! And even though I have been using Certiport for about 16 years, Ann presented even more great resources that I had not seen.

If you missed the Roadshow you missed a ton of great information (and a really good time), but Laura has placed all of the resources on the Imagine Academy website that will help you. Also, take advantage of the resources if you need help, you can always join the "Office Hour" calls or email any of the trainers.

Have a great school year!!

Kevin Hoover, Carroll County Area Technology Center, kevin.hoover@carroll.kyschools.us

I was able to learn about the Microsoft Imagine Academy for three consecutive days. I learned how easy it was to set up and enroll students in an online course. It was much easier to provide students with a link to enroll in a course on the Imagine Academy site than providing enrollment codes. I was able to enroll 78 students in a digital literacy online course by providing them the link to the course via Schoology. I will physically be with these students approximately 12 times throughout the school year. The students will have access to all of the course material online. This is something of a new concept for secondary education. Universities embraced online courses several years ago. Education and trainings are provided in many professional fields exclusively online. This is a way to prepare my students for opportunities they may find available later.

If there is one thing I could have said or given one piece of advice it would be; think outside the box, change the way we are educating students. Many teachers are teaching the way they were taught. Students are never far from technology; it is rarely further away than their hand or pocket. They are comfortable with technology. Educators should use the comfort level students have with technology to their advantage. In this day and age there are many different options to deliver curriculum and assess student learning using technology. Educators should use these technology options to their advantage. Furthermore, should educators teach the same concept or skill to all students at the same time? All learners are in a different place in the learning process. If a student can prove they have mastered a concept or skill, should they be required to stay in the same place with other students who have not mastered that concept or skill? They are no longer learning; they are stuck on pause until the other students catch up to them. Have students move on to a different concept or skill. The goal is to have students complete the curriculum and provide evidence they have mastered the concepts or skills in a course. They do not have to get to the finish line at the same time, they just have to get to the finish line. There are opportunities for students to help other students that are struggling with concepts or skills. There are opportunities to further the concepts or skills in a course with students that have completed the curriculum early.

Don't be afraid to do something because it is different.

Joe Beers, Jessamine County Career and Technology Center, joe.beers@jessamine.kyschools.us

Growing up in a poor inner-city environment as a child, I always knew. There was never an announcement or a letter. I just knew. I knew that I did not have the advantages in my neighborhood that others had throughout the state. It was clear to me as a young person that I was missing opportunities. Thankfully Microsoft's partnership with the state of Kentucky has eliminated this type of divide. The Imagine Academy has provided ALL students with the ability to consistently reach their potential. The amount of material and information that Microsoft is contributing is impressive and generous. Where a student lives and how much a district can afford is no longer an issue. This type of support is what helped me to quickly answer yes when I was asked to speak about the MTA portion of the Imagine Academy.

This summer I covered a few ways to utilize the Imagine Academy resources. Microsoft provides student books (.pdf format), teacher resources, test prep material and videos. The Imagine Academy also allows for classroom setup and the ability to assign courses to those groups. Here are suggestions on utilizing the material.

1. Wealth of Material: The overwhelming response this summer was that people were surprised by how much curriculum was available. At minimum, this should relieve the stress of finding and paying for updated books, lessons and videos.
2. Certification: As a best practice, instructors could use the wealth of materials to have their students take the certification exams available for free through the Imagine Academy program. Certification vouchers are provided for staff members as well.
3. Standalone Courses: The Creative Coding Through Games and Apps course is a perfect example of this type of course. The program provides a day-by-day curriculum. The curriculum comes complete with projects and online learning.
4. Independent Study: Many of us encounter students who zoom past the lessons we are currently teaching. While some of the courses are meant for direct instruction, many of the courses can be tailored for independent learning.

Ed Allin, Hardin County Early College Career Center, edwin.allin@hardin.kyschools.us

We live in one of the most dynamic times in history with all of the technology available to us today. We are able to move the work to the worker instead of the worker going to work. Microsoft is providing teachers and students with the opportunity to put our best global foot forward with Microsoft educational tools and an Academy full of opportunities. The Microsoft Imagine Academy is truly a resource that reaches around the globe with certification bravado and strength. Every Kentucky high school student can be part of that certification process through the various programs in productivity, infrastructure and computer science.

This summer, working with some of my colleagues, I began to scratch the surface of what the Imagine Academy has to offer. Being a lifetime IT certification holder, I understand how valuable having these vast interactive libraries and study materials available really are. We are preparing students to solve problems that do not exist with technologies we know little about. Students can prepare to be certified in one of the three tracks Microsoft offers with free testing and materials available 24/7 through the Imagine Academy. After touring the Imagine Academy and watching the "Getting Started" video a teacher can be well on his/her way to creating a successful certification year. The site is very intuitive and user friendly and there are teachers right here in Kentucky available to help you get things rolling.

Meeting some of the teachers in the state this summer was amazing and the response by attendees was the same. I am sure teachers are finding the Imagine Academy coupled with Certiport prep and the FREE Exam Vouchers provided by the Office of Education Technology via Kentucky Legislators is a complete turnkey system to help students succeed in our state!

Topics trending within the Imagine Academy program:

* Totally customizable curriculum
* Certifications (staff and students)
* Standalone courses
* Enrichment courses
* Independent study
* Globally respected certification corporation
* Cost is near zero!

Ed would like to begin a distribution/communication list of all MTA teachers. Can you, please, send a quick email to him at Edwin.allin@hardin.kyschools.us if you teach any MTA course? Any specific news, suggestions, updates can then be shared directly with you. Thanks!

Data Points for First Quarter 2016-17:

The number of schools signed up for membership: 255

The number of registered testing centers: 250

The number of Excel certifications for the quarter: 131

The number of Excel certification year-to-date: 131

The number of MTA certifications for the quarter: 8

The number of MTA certifications year-to-date: 8

The top 10 certifying sites:

1. Greenup County High	6. Meade County High
2. Boone County High	7. Johnson Central High
3. Central Hardin High	8. Shelby County ATC
4. South Floyd High	9. Apollo High in Daviess County
5. Grayson County High	10. Wolfe County High

Is your school listed here?