

Title

Capstone Introduction

Target Audience

This course is intended for K-12 educators who have experience with technology integration and are interested in demonstrating their proficiency in the ISTE NETS•T.

Prerequisites

To successfully participate and complete the assignments in this course, the learner must:

- Have experience using information and communication technology (e.g., Internet, word processors, spreadsheets, multimedia authoring tools) in a K-12 classroom.
- Have access to a classroom and students to implement a lesson or project.
- Be familiar with elementary, middle, or high school curriculum content.
- Have taken an online course or have completed the PBS “Practice Learning Online with TeacherLine” course.

Course Description

This self-paced mini-course is designed to introduce learners to the *PBS TeacherLine/ISTE Capstone Certificate Program*, which culminates in a Certificate of Proficiency in the ISTE National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers (NETS•T). It offers learners an opportunity to explore the standards and learn about what the Capstone program entails so that they will have a clear understanding of what to expect and what is expected of them. Learners will have a chance to brainstorm ideas for the portfolio exhibits they will create in the following Capstone courses. The Capstone Introduction is a prerequisite for enrollment these other Capstone courses.

Instructor/Facilitator

This is a self-paced, non-facilitated course.

Goals

The overall goal of this course is for learners to develop an understanding of the *PBS TeacherLine/ISTE Capstone Certificate Program* to determine whether or not it is a suitable match for their area of interest in professional development, and if so, to prepare them for program participation.

By the end of this course, learners will:

- Understand the goals, structure, and expectations of the Capstone program, including discussion participation and exhibit development.
- Be familiar with the ISTE NETS•T and how to identify evidence of the standards in practice.
- Develop plans for two Capstone exhibits that demonstrate proficiency in selected NETS•T.
- Be comfortable using the Capstone Portfolio tool to create exhibits of classroom practice.

Outline of Content and Assignments

After previewing the documents in the Course Information area, learners will proceed to the Course Content area to complete the following six sessions, working through each session in order. Throughout the sessions, learners are asked to articulate their ideas in various contexts: they are encouraged to

reflect on their ideas and experiences both privately and in online discussions, and they are expected to create two plans for classroom project exhibits within their online portfolios.

This course is designed to address all of the ISTE *Educational Technology Standards and Performance Indicators for All Teachers*. These standards define the fundamental concepts, knowledge, skills, and attitudes for applying technology in educational settings, and they frame the entire certificate program.

Session 1: Capstone Readiness

In the first session, learners will read the basic prerequisites for the Capstone courses and complete a brief self-assessment of their technology-related classroom practices. These experiences should help them decide if the *PBS TeacherLine/ISTE Capstone Certificate Program* is a good match for them.

Learners will:

- Determine whether they meet the technical requirements to participate in the Capstone program.
- Determine whether or not the program meets their professional interests and needs.

Activities include:

- Running a computer check.
- Reading the program expectations.
- Taking a survey about technology integration experience.

Session 2: The NETS•T in Practice

In this session, learners will take a close look at the ISTE National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) for teachers and students. These standards serve as a framework for the entire certificate experience, determining the structure of the courses and the teacher portfolio exhibits. They will see some examples of how educators are putting the NETS into practice and also think about how they address these standards within their own teaching.

Learners will:

- Compare the ISTE NETS to their state technology standards.
- Describe examples of the NETS•S and NETS•T in practice.
- Complete an “integration inventory” by listing examples of classroom lessons and projects they have implemented involving teacher and/or student use of technology.

Activities include:

- Reading the ISTE NETS for teachers and students.
- Locating and reviewing state technology standards.
- Browsing resources that support and/or illustrate putting the NETS into practice.
- Brainstorming examples of past classroom projects involving information and communication technology (ICT).

Session 3: Online Discussions

The third session describes the discussion boards that Capstone course learners will use to communicate with each other and with their Capstone coach. They will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the structure of PBS TeacherLine discussion forums and contribute to sample discussions.

Learners will:

- Explain and discuss examples of their own instructional technology use in the classroom.
- Contribute to online discussion forums and respond to other people’s postings.

Activities include:

- Posting to online discussion forums about classroom experience with technology integration.
- Reading and responding to other discussion forum postings.

Session 4: “Capstone I: Teaching with Technology”

This session looks at the structure and content of the Capstone I course in greater detail. Learners will learn more about what makes a good Capstone I exhibit and view model exhibits. Brainstorming activities are intended to help them plan their own Capstone I portfolio exhibits.

Learners will:

- Describe an idea for a Capstone I exhibit project.
- Explain which of the NETS•T are addressed in the project.

Activities include:

- Reading about the Capstone I course.
- Viewing sample Capstone I exhibits.
- Deciding on a classroom project to feature in a Capstone I exhibit.

Session 5: “Capstone II: Empowering Students with Technology”

This session looks at the structure and content of the Capstone II course in greater detail. Learners will learn more about what makes a good Capstone II exhibit and view model exhibits. Brainstorming activities are intended to help them plan their own Capstone II portfolio exhibits.

Learners will:

- Describe an idea for a Capstone II exhibit project.
- Explain which of the NETS•T are addressed in the project.

Activities include:

- Reading about the Capstone II course.
- Viewing sample Capstone II exhibits.
- Deciding on a classroom project to feature in a Capstone II exhibit.

Session 6: Portfolio Exhibits

The last session in the Capstone Introduction explores the anatomy of Capstone exhibits in more detail. Learners will have a chance to familiarize themselves with the portfolio tool and use it to document plans for their own Capstone exhibits.

Learners will:

- Navigate the Capstone Portfolio tool.
- Develop preliminary plans for their Capstone I and Capstone II exhibits.

Activities include:

- Taking a tour of the online portfolio tool and the exhibit development process.
- Uploading a document to the portfolio.
- Creating and submitting exhibit plans for both Capstone courses.

Schedule

This self-paced course is scheduled to take approximately 6 hours to complete, though learners may want to spend more time exploring embedded resources.

Requirements

Learners are expected to:

- Complete all assignments.
- Participate actively in discussions with fellow learners.
- Be self-directed and self-motivated.
- Ask for assistance when they need it.

Evaluation

Evaluation is pass/fail, and is based on satisfactory completion of assignments and discussion. Learners must pass the Capstone Introduction course in order to participate in either of the other Capstone courses.

Materials (hardware, software, plug-ins)

Technical Requirements

- Word processor
- Internet service provider
- Web browser
- E-mail