

# Kurzweil 3000-firefly: Implementation of a UDL Learning Tool

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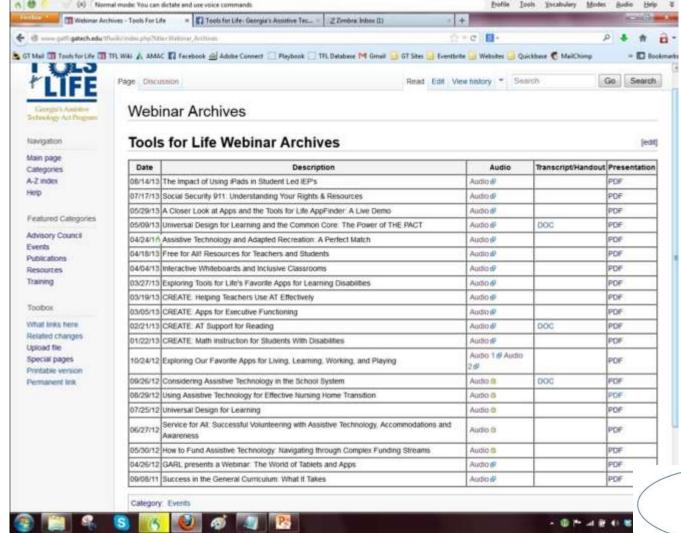




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### Choosing a UDL Solution.....

- Set of Tools
- ALL students Typical Learners, ESOL, Struggling Readers, Students with Disabilities
- Available Everywhere
- Import or Scan Learning Materials
- Features that can be accessed as needed and customized
  - Reading with Highlighting and speed, voice, color preferences
  - Dictionary and Translation
  - Auditory feedback when writing, talking spell check, word prediction, wordlists, templates





## What is Kurzweil 3000-firefly?

- Kurzweil 3000-firefly gives students universal access to their files and learning supports that they might need
- Can be accessed anytime, anywhere, on any device
- Files are stored in a cloud-based Universal Library for easy access from anywhere
- Full version at School
  - Reading
  - Vocabulary Development
  - Study Skills
  - Writing





### Kurzweil 3000-firefly Universal Library

- For Students
  - Access to Learning materials same login as at school
    - School Public Folder
    - School System Public Folder
  - Student folders for their work
  - Classic Literature, Reading A-Z, Non-fiction Bookbag
  - All Reading features available
  - Student preferences remembered

- For Teachers
  - Student accounts and logins
  - Team Management
  - Files that teachers want to share with students
  - Student usage records
  - Help Files
  - Classic Literature, Reading A-Z, Non-fiction Bookbag, Samples



http://www.fireflybykurzweil.com



# Reading & Vocabulary

- Read aloud with highlighting in preferred colors
- Reading voice, speed, mode, and unit changeable
- Look up definitions
- Get synonyms, pronunciations
- Translate words or paragraphs into other languages
- Reading on the Web
- Audio file capability





# Study Skills

- Highlight main ideas, subtopics, and details with highlighters
- Extract highlights to a study document in outline format or column notes
- Highlight vocabulary words and extract to column notes or vocabulary study guide
- Add annotations and hyperlinks
- Add bubble notes for comprehension support or questions that student has





# Writing

- Auditory feedback while typing both words and sentences
- Writing continuum
  - Planning through editing
  - Brainstorm, outline, draft, finish and edit
- Word Lists
- Word Prediction
- Writing Templates



### Kurzweil 3000-firefly Highlights

- Using the program for increasing student independence
- Implementing strategies like SQ3R
- Using the program for writing instruction
- Accessing Teacher-created learning materials





### Implementation – the best laid plans...

- Original plan
  - Introductory 2 hour webinar for all teachers during pre-planning
  - Work with students in schools, modeling use
- But.....
  - Some kind of technical issue
  - Wrong link was sent out
- How we've implemented
  - Teachers trained during planning time or whole group after school
  - "One Thing" Webinars
  - "Next Steps" suggestions for Getting Started
  - Suggestions for using Quick Takes in the Training Manual
  - Supporting the Uploading of Content





## Implementation Barriers

- Software was "pushed" out to all computers. More trouble with teacher laptops than with computers hardwired to the network all the time. Laptops on carts were installed easily.
- Planning time was not sufficient to help some teachers feel ready to use the software with students.
- Many initiatives going on at once!
- Move to Chromebooks!
- Many students without technology at home.
- Modeling with students was limited to 4 pilot schools.





### Lessons Learned

- Training time needs to be unencumbered time set aside to focus on the program and its use in the classroom
- Training time needs to be at least 2-3 hours
- Pilot schools worked where there was a strong facilitator and advocate for the use of the program
- Training a small group of teachers who will become the "champions" for the program and redeliver training to the rest of the staff is a better use of training time





# What's Next?

For questions or comments, you may contact:

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