**Instructional Technology Coaches' Update – November 2018**

Computer Applications Course

The computer applications classes continued this month with most of the classes completing their digital citizenship lesson and transitioning to their Microsoft Word Lessons. In preparation for the MS Word lessons, Mrs. Butcher and Ms. O'Day met with the media specialists and teachers to discuss the grading requirements for the activities completed during class. To make this process as easy as possible, the technology coaches created samples and rubrics for the teachers to reference.   All of the classes are using Google Classroom as their central hub with teachers, media specialists, and technology coaches being listed as co-teachers. Google Classroom was selected for this because it allows the teacher to post all of the lesson materials, create assignments for which the students can submit their final products, and facilitate grading of assignments and quizzes. After the students complete their MS Word lessons, they are schedule to move on to Excel and PowerPoint by the end of the year.
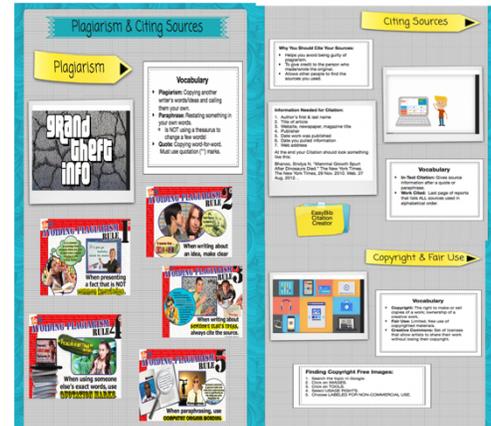
November 3rd – ICEChip Mini-Conference

On Saturday, November 3rd, Mrs. Butcher and Ms. O'Day attended an ICEChip mini-conference at Jack Hille Middle School in Oak Forest, IL. ICEChip is the south suburbs chapter of the Illinois Computing Educators organization which deals specifically with technology in education. At this conference, the technology coaches attended workshops on app smashing and Makerspaces & coding. App smashing involves the using multiple apps/programs to create a final product or complete a task. At the Makerspaces & Coding workshop the technology coaches learned about building and coding robots and how to integrate them effectively into curriculum. This workshop provided them with the hands-on opportunity to use robots that are commonly used in schools.

November 9th – SMART Training

Mrs. Butcher and Ms. O'Day attended a full day SMART training workshop on November 9th in the Professional Center. This training centered around the SMART Learning Suite and all of the tools available with the district subscription. The goal of the training was for the technology coaches to learn how to use all of the tools so that they can pass that knowledge onto the teachers. They reviewed the SMART Notebook tools and the SMART Exchange so that teacher can use these tools to build interactive lessons. The interactive lessons allow students to use their devices to complete lessons/games created by the teacher in the program. The technology coaches also had the opportunity to learn how to use the interactive SMART TV's which could potentially replace the SMART projectors in the future.

November 15th Acellus Training

Mrs. Butcher and Ms. O'Day attended an Acellus training session in the Annex. The Acellus course and materials were provided to the district as a part of a grant. Currently, it will be used by the afterschool STEM program, but the teachers may have the opportunity to use it with their regular classroom. The training centered around the online portal that students will access to complete modules in their quest to program the robot. These modules cover everything from basic commands and block coding to advanced coding using syntax. The technology coaches attended to make sure that they would be able to assist the participating teachers as they pilot this new program.

November 27th - Wonder Workshop Robotics Training Course

At the November 3rd ICEChip conference, Mrs. Butcher and Ms. O'Day learned of an opportunity to take courses for the Dash and Cue robots by Wonder Workshop. Both of these robots are commonly used in elementary and middle school classes to teach students block coding (Dash) and eventually text-based coding (Cue) as the students develop their programming skills. The courses included the robot as well as six hours of modules for each robot that dealt with pedagogy as well as integration strategies.

Instructional Technology Webpage

The technology coaches completed the introduction and links pages of their coach's webpage. The EdTech links page provides teachers with links to programs that they can actively integrate into their classrooms. This page includes links to access programs on classroom management, creating digital portfolios, literacy and writing tools, math tools, infographic and presentation creators, and coding and 3D printing. Mrs. Butcher and Ms. O'Day are currently working on a blog-type page that will provide teachers with even more EdTech resources and integration tips.

Coaching Duties

Teachers are actively booking appointments with Mrs. Butcher and Ms. O'Day for help with program selection, training, signing students up for programs, and providing additional programs for use in the classroom. Requests for training on Google Classroom was a very common teacher booking this month at both the elementary buildings and the junior high. This training included an overview of the Google Apps suite; setting up classes; adding students; creating and posting notes, materials, questions, and assignments; grading/commenting on student work; and best practices for using this program to facilitate class activities and differentiate instruction.
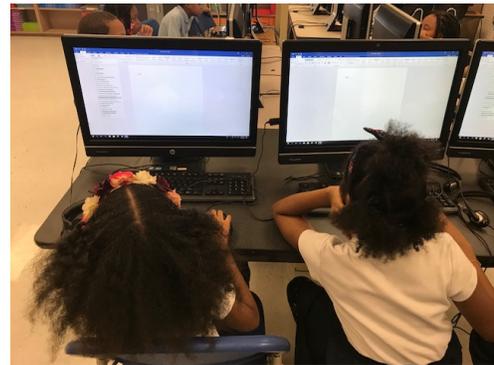
This month, Mrs. Butcher assisted Mr. Cieslak and his students with their presentation for the school board. The students utilized iMovie to create short videos showcasing PBIS expectations for Mae Jemison School. Once the PBIS videos were created and uploaded Mr. Cieslak decided to create videos for math lessons. These videos were then posted on Mr. Cieslak's webpage to create a flipped classroom. A flipped classroom is a type of blended learning that reverses the traditional learning environment by delivering instructional content online outside of the classroom. Mr. Cieslak's students and parents now have access to various lessons from home.

Mrs. Butcher also met with several teachers during the month of November to assist with iPad integration. Teachers were instructed on the use of creating QR codes. The QR codes are then used by students to quickly access websites during reading centers. The quick access keeps students on task and aids in transition from one activity to the next. The iPads have also been utilized by students to create eBooks. Mrs. Butcher instructed students and the

teacher on the use of the iPad Pages app. With Mrs. Butcher's assistance students created their stories in the app and then exported the file to an e-publication. The e-publication file can then be viewed in Apple Books.
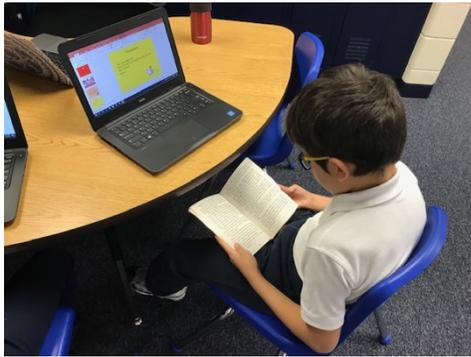
Additionally, Ms. Butcher worked with students to create a culminating reading project. Students had read the book "Frindle" during class and the culminating activity was the creation of a digital book talk. Students were responsible for including elements from the story and digital elements as well such as animations and transitions. Throughout the month, teachers also inquired about the use of Edmentum, Keynote, Office 365, and resources for the upcoming Science Fair.

As the process of rolling out the laptop carts wound down this month, Ms. O'Day met with students and teachers to reiterate laptops rules and procedures that were covered in October. This was mainly done during the library computer classes, but there were some special education teachers that requested she come in and meet with their students in their classroom.

Many of Ms. O'Day's bookings during November centered around Pearson SuccessNet (literature), Pearson Realize (writing & history), and the Discovery Education TechBook (science) all of which are programs provided by the district for specific subject areas. When meeting with each teacher Ms. O'Day showed them how to create their classes, assign work to their students, and grade completed work in the online portal. With teachers using so many different programs in their classrooms, she recommended that they have a central place students could go to access directions/instruction. Many of the teachers chose to use Google Classroom for this, so Ms. O'Day showed them how to integrate the programs so that students were able to easily transition among activities throughout the class period. Some of the teachers also booked Ms. O'Day to push in to their classrooms to provide instruction to their students on how to use the individual programs in class and at home.

As teachers became more comfortable with the textbook programs and Google Classroom, they started to make bookings for Ms. O'Day to show them other programs that they could use to meet the needs of their students. Special education teachers requested information on engaging programs/applications that they could use to differentiate instruction for their students. Ms. O'Day provided them with training on iReady, Imagine Learning, Epic!, and various other online programs. For iReady, she showed the teachers how

to access the test data, access online instruction materials, adjust student levels if needed, as well as had them access the iReady Toolbox to review the resources there that are available for teachers. Epic! Is a digital book program that they can use to accommodate the various ability levels and interests of their students. Ms. O'Day showed the teachers how to create their classrooms and assign materials to their students. Other requests from teachers included using QR codes for a history gallery walk; CAD programs for a Saturday school architecture program; using Google Meet for online tutoring/flipped classrooms; math application for basic number facts, graphing, and algebra; and online research strategies for students.