Elementary MakerSpace Updates

Washington School

I go into each K-2 classroom each week and conduct a 30 minute lesson. So far this school year, we have focused on learning vocabulary, hardware/software. We have had several lessons learning how to code using Code.org. **Code. org's elementary school level courses use Blockly**, which uses visual blocks that you drag and drop to write programs. I also have a few teachers that ask me for specific skills they want me to teach the students for an activity they do. I taught Mrs. Morrell's students how to type in a text box, search for an image, insert it, and then resize it. In the next few weeks, I will begin focusing on keyboarding skills using the website Typing Club. The KDG program not only focuses on how to type, but reinforces how to make letters and reviews the letter sounds. I also do STEM projects with them several times throughout the year to teach them the maker process: ask, imagine, plan, create, test and improve, reflect and present. Students enjoy these activities and view them more as play and not learning. They learn that failing is ok and to try again. I have materials that have been purchased for teacher use stored in my room that they can check out. I usually introduce the materials during a Tech Time lesson and then teachers are free to come and check them out.

Lincoln School

This year I do a weekly Tech lesson with each 3rd grade class. They come up to the MakerSpace and so far this year we have worked on continuing our coding skills using Code.org and learned about Mystery Number. In the next few weeks, we will be getting keyboarding skills using the Typing Club website as well as gaining knowledge for our first STEM challenge thinking about symmetry. I push into 4th and 5th grade classrooms to show how technology can be used to demonstrate learning. I have been into those classrooms to teach Flip to the students. This is a video based website. I have been showing them the different features it has to offer and we discussed that the features need to pertain or compliment their learning. 4th graders practiced using some of the features to create a video where they shared about their summer vacation. 5th graders have been creating Flips to share what they learned about Colonial jobs. It's a great way for them to practice their speaking skills and once videos are approved, to watch their peers I have also began working with writers and graphic artists for our 5TV show and am hopeful to get out an introductory episode for the first week of October.

Professional Learning Opportunities

This year I will be presenting on Digital SEL with a Purpose, That's a Wrap at the IETC Conference. I was also asked to assist with another session on robotics. In addition to this

conference, I was able to go to Champaign and check out their community Fab Lab located on the University of Illinois campus to gain ideas for our MakerSpace. What a wonderful experience to see what they have and talk to university staff and professors on creating a meaningful space. I also attended a ROE #3 workshop, STEM through the Year, to gain more ideas and materials to use with our students. It was geared towards students in grades 4 through 8.

Let's Code!

Summer memories

4S