

GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



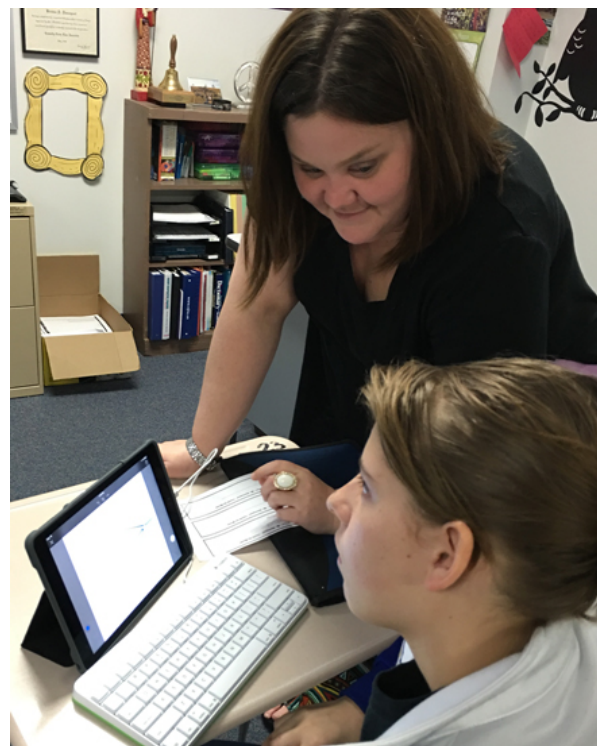
Stephanie Schroll (standing) helps her students select an app to help them create a video on a concept they have covered in class. Pictured are (from left) Gabriela Cavazos, Leonela Flores, Kaitlyn Casper, Schroll and Hillary Mendez.

Digital Learning Day

Goose Creek CISD celebrated Digital Learning Day February 17 with the rest of the world, but the celebration of technology happens all school year as students and teachers enjoy showing off the cutting-edge technology they use daily to enhance learning and accelerate achievement.

“The day highlights great teaching practices and showcases innovative teachers, leaders and instructional technology programs that are improving student achievement, but we are proud that GCCISD is using technology throughout the district every day in every classroom,” said Matt Flood, chief technology officer.

District Technology Management Systems (TMS) technology experts visited every school during the week, observing classes and selecting Digital Learning All-Stars, who are using technology innovatively in their classrooms. Pictures were tweeted out to their Twitter account



@gccisd_edtech during the week to recognize the technology leaders.

Regina Rogers, educational technology specialist, observed Stephanie Schrull, geography and social studies teacher at Goose Creek Memorial High School, working with her students to help them choose a concept from a unit they have covered and create a 2- 4 minute video explaining and teaching the concept.

Schrull gave the students a choice from a list of app suggestions she learned about at TCEA, an annual conference for Texas Computer Education Association in Austin, or the students used another app they wanted to try. According to Schrull, the key is that the students had a “choice” of what app to use for their project. Having a “choice” deepens their knowledge and adds value to the investment in their projects.

“I was amazed at how the students explained the terms in the videos, as well as applied it to the real world--which was not actually information they gathered from the text,” said Schrull. “I loved how it all turned out! It worked out so well, I will be doing it again in the next unit.”

Robyn Sewell, educational technology specialist, found a Digital Learning All-Star in 8th grade ELA teacher Kristen Davenport, who uses iPads daily in her classroom with a variety of apps for student instruction. The day Sewell visited Cedar Bayou Junior School, Davenport was using Skitch and Google Drive to compare two genres. She compared the song, “The House that Built Me,” to “The House on Mango Street.”

Kristen Davenport, 8th grade teacher at Cedar Bayou Junior School, uses iPads daily in her classroom with a variety of apps for student instruction.

Students annotated the lyrics, finding the artist's purpose for the figurative language, and compared it to the point of view of author Sandra Cisneros in the novel. Students responded in Google drive to the questions of comparison.

Educational technology specialist Lori Roberts bragged on Digital Learning All-Star Kandice Melchor, 5th grade teacher at Carver Elementary, who uses technology with her students on a daily basis. Students use their classroom laptops for a variety of activities, including Studies Weekly, an online social studies textbook, for warm-ups.

“Students also engage with the Promethean ActivBoard and ActivExpression clickers to practice test taking skills and strategies,” said Roberts. “In addition, Melchor also uses EduSmart for online science activities and curriculum.”

All GCCISD core curriculum teachers received a Promethean Board and a presentation station for the 2014-2015 school year. This is the second year that all high school students have had the opportunity to check out iPads, an initiative piloted in 2013 with seniors.

“We’d like to once again thank the community for its commitment to increasing technology in GCCISD by approving the 2013 Bond,” said Flood. “GCCISD is a leader in technology in the area, and we are making sure our students are 21st century learners.”

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