

“Innovation in the Classroom” Spotlight

Triway Local Schools would like to spotlight several teachers in our district who have placed an emphasis on integrating new technology into their classrooms this year, resulting in expanded 21st century learning opportunities for students.



Melinda Shriver - Second Grade, Shreve Elementary

In Melinda Shriver’s second-grade classroom, students utilize technology each day in their ELA center rotations. The students also enjoy ‘Tech Time,’ where they work on Razkids, EPIC, Spellingcity or ConnectEd (Wonders). Shriver has also set up a Google Classroom, where students answer questions on a Chromebook based on the stories they are reading in class. The class also takes their weekly spelling tests in Google Classroom, which provides instant feedback on their performance.

Recently, the second graders wrote animal research reports and created Google Slides showcasing the information they learned. They were able to share their Google Slides with the class using the classroom’s Clevertouch screen. They also regularly use a website called Storybird during ‘Tech Time’ to focus on writing. Storybird allows students to write poems and stories with illustrated pictures, which helps them use their imagination to write in a creative way.





Kali Bolen - Seventh Grade and High School Computer Integrated Manufacturing

In Kali Bolen's Computer Integrated Manufacturing class, high school students created LED signs, which require high-tech skills such as measuring the thickness of the acrylic components and understanding the requirements of the 3D printer for printing the light's base to the correct size. First, the students converted their inventor files to G-code to 3D print their bases. Then, for the sign itself, they had the option to use either Inventor or Adobe Illustrator to design. Lastly, with some old computer mice, the class was able to figure out how to wire an LED light to run off of power from a computer so they would never need to replace batteries.

In Bolen's Medical Detectives class, students engaged in a fictitious Lego crime scene. Through community donations, Bolen purchased different types of locks to put on boxes she created. Students received an evidence list and case report and then had to piece together hidden information to unlock the locks and solve the case. Some things students had to do in this scenario is analyze foot prints and sequence DNA. This is very similar to an escape room, except they are trying to get into the main box that's secured by locks.



Jennifer Farrar - Triway High School Biology 1&2, Anatomy, CCP Biology, Forensic Biology

In Jennifer Farrar's high school science classes, she provides students with a choice as to what type of final product they may complete for assessments, such as commercials, web-designed pamphlets/flyers and Ted-style talks using technology for lab reports (known as Farrar Fancy Talks). This year for the first time, students participated in March Mammal Madness – a biology competition modeled after the NCAA basketball tournament that's carried out on Twitter. This lesson led to many interesting discussions about new animals, including comparing their skills and adaptations and then critically thinking as students determined who would win potential hypothetical battles.

Farrar has also integrated technology into her classroom in other ways, such as using virtual reality (VR) goggles to “swim with sharks” and taking a virtual tour of a cell. Farrar participated in the “Skype a Scientist” program, where her class was able to interview a marine biologist working in the Red Sea, a medical student in Philadelphia and an insect physiologist in Canada.