



Spring 2017



Interface 2017

Interface 2017 was a great experience! The emphasis this year was on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) and was designed for all math and science educators. Educators from all over the state converged on Tan-Tar-A to take part in this truly enlightening conference that provided quality professional learning. Some of the areas that the math sessions focused on were fractions, statistics, and basic fluency. Science sessions provided lessons on robotics, catapults, and notebooking. There were even sessions promoting the completion of Science and Math Specialist Certifications. All sessions emphasized the need to increase conceptual knowledge and higher order thinking skills, as well as to hone students' problem solving abilities. Interface 2017 was a fantastic professional development opportunity. I can't wait until next year!!

Excellence in Learning for ALL!

Southern Boone County Schools recognizes the skill set of teachers is crucial to the success of our students. Professional development is essential for teachers to remain current with best practices and is a continuous process of collaboration and shared leadership focused on meeting the district's mission. Please enjoy a few pictures and information we are spotlighting in this edition of the SBC PD Spotlight!

Professional Learning Conference

The Elementary Team found this year's Professional Learning Conference to be helpful and exciting. Here are a few sessions they are sharing:

Write it Out! In the Science Workshop

In this session, we explored how to create interactive journals propelling students into critical science thinking while supporting them with writing strategies such as: sentence stems, foldables, and constructed-response strategies. We were able to examine work samples from a range of learners and receive ideas on how to scaffold written work to meet the needs of a diverse population. The goal is to transform the way our students communicate scientific knowledge using scientific language demonstrating learning. Check out Page Keeley's [Uncovering Student Thinking in Science](#) series. This series provides a set of K-12 formative assessment probes that link key concepts in science to commonly held ideas in learning. —Emily Newland

Knowledge is Power!

During this session had several engaging activities and tools to empower students to take ownership of their learning. I explored the use of assessment-capable learning (ACL) and how to engage this cross-curricular. Presenters taught how to implement various strategies across curriculums and how to develop a classroom setting conducive to this type of learning. Some takeaways that I would like to implement in my classroom are the use of Fiction and Non-fiction signposts as well as the one-minute power writing activity. —Jami Troth

“Love Critical Thinking with LEGO Build-to-Express Kits”

We learned how to use LEGO's for students, young and old, to show their critical thinking by building their thoughts out of LEGO bricks and then sharing their ideas. We were asked to show very abstract thoughts with our LEGOs and then explain our thinking. I am currently looking into making my own kits to have as challenge boxes for early finishers! —Meagan Cooper

If Your Teams Cannot Collaborate Effectively, Then “Forget About It!”

Dr. Cruz focused on the pivotal role collaboration plays when implementing the PLC process. Effective PLCs: identify standards students are expected to learn at high levels, unpack standards to generate learning targets, and create common formative and summative assessments to demonstrate levels of learning. —Karen Scaboo



Distinguished Pre-Service Teacher Award

Miranda Kent, MS Math Student Teacher, has earned MU's Distinguished Pre-Service Teacher Award. Miranda comes to us all the way from Bentonville, Arkansas. She is the first person in her family to attend college and appreciates her awesome experience with MS students and staff. An ah-ha moment for Ms. Kent was when she realized how well her teaching team worked together to help solve problems and that those around her help each other grow as educators. Her cooperating teacher said Miranda is well liked and respected by students and her methodical planning leads to awesome interactive lessons. Congratulations Miranda!

JUMP—Taking Leaps of Faith When Working with Students



At the high school faculty meeting in January, we introduced “The Frog”, later to be named Hemi, to our faculty. Our school theme for this school year has been “Jump!” - taking leaps of faith when working with students. When pursuing our mission, Excellence in Learning for All, we do not know when a certain strategy or program will work. However, as professionals, if we feel as if a strategy or program will work, we need to simply “JUMP”, and a majority of the time you will find that once you have jumped, your parachute will open! It will be scary at first, but once that parachute opens, you can enjoy the ride and the success you are having with your students!

We use Hemi to recognize successes among our faculty. Hemi is passed among faculty or staff members, and then a picture is sent to the staff with the reason they received Hemi. We try to move him around each week. With our big building and busy schedules, it is not unheard of to go days without seeing some of our fellow teachers. Hemi allows us to connect more as a faculty and to hear about the great things that are going on all over our school. These are things we probably would not have heard about if we did not have Hemi. Coach Tracy and Mrs. Stichnote are just a few examples of the high school’s many deserving recipients!



Over Spring Break on Friday, March 24, Heather Noe attended a workshop entitled, G Suite and the 4Cs. It was presented by Alice Keeler (a Google guru). The day was spent focusing on how to use



Google applications to increase depth of knowledge in the 4 Cs -- creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration.

Mrs. Noe was excited to attend the workshop and meet one of the members in her Twitter PLN (personal learning network)! Mrs. Noe has been using ideas from Alice Keeler for a few years. You can follow Alice Keeler at [@alicekeeler](#) or follow Heather at [@funauntheather](#)

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Education Technology Conference

If you were interested in learning more about how to differentiate instruction with Google forms, how to teach students coding or what Makerspaces look like the Southwest Education and Tech Conference was the place to be! Faith Steelman, Katie Dunne, Erin Sappington, Karen Pfungsten, Julie Chapman and Tim Roth participated in two interactive days thinking outside the box for student success. As a team we were able to talk about what strategies, resources and programs we thought would be beneficial for our students in Southern Boone.

Teaching students how to code and how technology can positively impact instruction was a priority for all who attended. We learned coding is a language that

helps solve problems and increases collaboration in creative ways. New programs available scaffold apps and tools allowing everyone to learn coding from very simple to complex levels.

Another area of focus was how to use augmented reality to enhance teacher syllabus, lessons, newsletters and textbooks to promote higher student engagement and scaffold learning for more difficult topics. Look for examples

coming this fall!

<http://ashland.k12.mo.us/>

