Technology at Cahaba Elementary

April Smith
Technology Integration Specialist

About Your Technology Integration Specialist

My name is April Smith and I am the Technology Integration Specialist at Cahaba Elementary School. I am from Opelika, Alabama. I went to Auburn University and UAB and hold a double major in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. I taught 6th grade Social Studies and Technology at Moody Middle School for 7 years before coming to Cahaba Elementary School to work as the Technology Specialist. I am married and have three children: Hannah (age 13), Jackson (age 12), and Connor (age 9).

I love going hiking and camping. My husband and I hiked the Georgia portion of the Appalachian Trail over the summer. You can see our online scrapbook at www.thesmithchronicles.us. I love to travel and enjoy going on adventures with my family. I enjoy fantasy, sci-fi, supernatural, and dystopian books, movies, and television shows. I am a loyal Auburn Football fan, Star Wars guru, comic book geek, and tech nerd.

I believe in discovery and inquiry based learning, where students participate in authentic learning experiences. Students develop communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem solving skills using peer discussion, online simulations and interactives, gaming, and project based learning. I love using pop culture to help my students learn! My learning platform is www.aprilsmith.org.

Computer Science Curriculum

Students participate in computer science classes once a week at Cahaba Elementary School. Lessons for this class are created using the ISTE (The International Society for Technology Education) and Alabama State Technology Standards. These lessons are designed to provide students with exposure to

a variety of digital devices in order to build a solid foundation of digital knowledge and computational skills. Technology is an interwoven tapestry in the curriculum at Cahaba. Students utilize different technology and develop many skills using technology. Technology integration provides students with authentic, real world experiences that will prepare them to compete in our technology driven world.

ISTE Student Standards
7 Big Goals

EMPOWERED LEARNER

Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving and demonstrating competency in their learning goals, informed by the learning sciences.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Students recognize the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world, and they act and model in ways that are safe, legal and ethical.

KNOWLEDGE CONSTRUCTOR

Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.

INNOVATIVE DESIGNER

Students use a variety of technologies within a design process to identify and solve problems by creating new, useful or imaginative solutions.

COMPUTATIONAL THINKER

Students develop and employ strategies for understanding and solving problems in ways that leverage the power of technological methods to develop and test solutions.

CREATIVE COMMUNICATOR

Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.

GLOBAL COLLABORATOR

Students use digital tools to broaden their perspectives and enrich their learning by collaborating with others and working effectively in teams locally and globally.

What Do Technology Integration Specialists Do?

Technology Integration Specialists teach students computer science and technology and assist teachers with incorporating technology into their curriculum.

Some of the Duties Technology Integration Specialists Perform Are:

- Teaching student technology labs
- Assisting in planning and implementing a variety of extended opportunities for student learning
- Communicating technology goals to the faculty and parents
- Collaborating with teachers to integrate technology
- Creating learning resources for teachers, staff and students such as web sites, tutorials, instructional videos, interactive programs, and databases that support teachers in integrating technology
- Instructing and assisting with technology devices
- Providing professional development for technology integration and resources
- Recommending software and related resources
- Administrating student computer software accounts
- Identifying trends in software, curriculum, teaching strategies and other educational areas
- Assessing technology skill levels of students, teachers and staff
- Assisting in the creation, maintenance, and integration of technology plans
- Overseeing school technology projects
- Maintaining the school website
- Logging meeting minutes
- Assisting with standardized computer testing
- Photography and Videography of school related events

Trussville City Schools Vision

Educators, staff, parents, and the community will work together to help students move forward on a positive path toward college and career readiness.

Trussville City Schools Mission

The Mission of Trussville City Schools is to educate all students using high standards in a safe, nurturing environment fostering academic and career competencies that prepare them to be productive citizens.

Contact Information

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