

Anatomy of a Digital Student

Jill Pierce, STEM Coordinator

Jill is a 20 year veteran of Instructional Technology. Currently she works for McMinn County Schools, as system-wide STEM Coordinator. She was employed for five years at PCS, Inc. as an Educational Technology Trainer working with schools across the state of Tennessee providing instructional training on the use of technology in the classroom. This includes Microsoft Innovator Master Trainer, Certified Promethean Activclassroom Trainer, Mobile (iPad* and Android*) Technology and STEM Training. Before working at PCS, Inc. she worked for Loudon County Schools as their Technology Director for several years. She has served as a member of TETA (Tennessee Educational Technology Association), an ISTE and COSN Affiliate, for 18 years, formally serving on TETA's Board of Directors for eight years—two of those as state chair. She is also a member of ISTE (International Society of Technology Educators), and several other Special Interest Groups. She had the honor of receiving the TETA Directors' Award in 2006, an award given to individuals with broad influence on instructional technology that spans across the entire state. In 2008, Jill received the Making it Happen Award from ISTE, an internationally recognized awards program for educators in the field of educational technology integration in K-12 schools. She was named a 2014 Microsoft Expert Educator and will be attending the Microsoft in Education Global Forum in Barcelona, Spain in March.



McMinn County Schools, Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County is located in Southeast Tennessee along the I-75 and U.S. 411 corridors halfway between the metropolitan areas of Chattanooga and Knoxville. With a population estimated at over 52,000 people, the 430 square mile county is still considered rural. Though rural, numerous Fortune 500 companies and subsidiaries call McMinn County home.

McMinn County Schools is a public school system that is made up of seven (Pre K-8th grade) elementary schools based in small communities in the county. Those elementary schools feed into two (9th-12th grade) High Schools and one Career Technical Center. The McMinn County School System goal is to improve student learning and achievement as measured by state mandated assessments and the promotion of student citizenship and critical thinking skills. The use of technology will be an important component in achieving our goals. The integration of technology will create a dynamic and challenging learning environment for all students in the McMinn County School System.



Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Understand the importance of using a variety of search strategies for effective and efficient online searches.
- Learn to create and execute a plan for creating a digital notebook with information from relative searches.
- Apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information. (ISTE NETS-S)
 - Locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media.
 - Evaluate and select information sources and digital tools based on the appropriateness to specific tasks.
- Use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources.
- Identify and define authentic problems and significant questions for investigation.

Grade Level: 6, 7, and 8

Lesson Duration: 45 minutes

Materials and Resources:

- Microsoft OneNote*
- Lenovo ThinkPad* Yoga*
- <http://www.common SenseMedia.org> (Lessons on Digital Literacy)
- Access to cloud technology (Office 365* or Skydrive*)
- Access to Internet with Bing search

Background/Context

Students are immersed in technology 24/7, but we need to give them the skills to recognize and process true and relevant information on the Internet for their daily lives. In this lesson they will learn a method of planning and carrying out online searches and how to apply the information for later use in a digital notebook.

Activity

To begin the activity, the teacher will discuss with the students what a search for information on the Internet is and how important it can be. The students will do a search on a subject they are interested in and create their own page in a shared OneNote notebook and copy their results onto their page. They will then access a page in the shared notebook that talks about what makes an effective and efficient search. They will redo their search, applying the skills talked about in the reference page to make a more relevant search. Students will copy their new results to the notebook and will compare and discuss the differences from their first search. Students will learn how this digital notebook can be used to organize their information and they will apply this knowledge to organizing their search results. As closure for the lesson, students will use the record video option in the OneNote to record what they learned in the lesson.

Assessments:

The teacher will be assessing student progress throughout lesson by viewing entries in the notebook. Students will use a KWL chart in the notebook as a guide. The teacher will use the video recordings as final assessment for this lesson.

Wrap Up and Reflection

Digital literacy is critical in our world today, and it is important to understand what digital literacy is. Students need to recognize this is one lesson of many for them to efficiently manage their digital life.