

# Focus on Learning

Whew! Two weeks down! I hope things have gone exceptionally well for you, and that you and your students are settling into your school routine.

This year I will once again be available to help with integrating technology into your classrooms. This can take the shape of meeting with you/your team before, during or after school – to plan, review or learn, or it could be co-teaching, team teaching, or providing support for you. Please contact me to find ways to utilize technology in your teaching, locate & organize new tools & resources, and to find 21<sup>st</sup> century solutions to classroom problems.

Although people often see my focus as being on technology, I would really like to stress that it is not the technology, but the learning objective that I see as the highest priority. Technology should help you teach, save you time, and help your students better understand the goals and objectives of your lessons. Technology should make your life easier – not harder! My goal is to manage that with you.

## My Upcoming Schedule:

I will be in Nevis on Thursday, Sept 20 from 1 – 5:30. Please feel free to contact me at any time via my cell phone (320-241-6150), my home email ([lconzemius@gmail.com](mailto:lconzemius@gmail.com)), or Nevis email ([lconzemius@nevis308.org](mailto:lconzemius@nevis308.org)). I will get back to you as quick as I can, even if I'm not in the building.

## Scheduled Classes:

Please see the next page for the complete list of classes being held in Park Rapids and Nevis Schools this fall. It is perfectly fine for teachers to attend a class at either district! I'm including both schedules in case you are interested in attending on a different day, since I am not in Nevis more than once a week or so. **In order to reserve a spot in the class, please send a quick email to [lconzemius@gmail.com](mailto:lconzemius@gmail.com) indicating your plan to attend.** I am happy to hold every class regardless of the number of attendees, but if no one is coming I'd like to know that ahead of time and I will cancel the class. Thank you!!

The classes I am scheduling are two hours in length. There is no charge for any class. There will be a sign-in sheet for CEUs. If you are unable to attend the entire two hours, feel free to stay for as long as you can.

Thursday, September 22 at Nevis School: Questions & Work Time

Thursday, September 28 at Century School, Park Rapids: Questions & Work Time

## Questions & Work Time

Trying out Google Classroom and need some questions answered? Can't remember what you learned last summer in a tech class? Need some time to set up some classroom technology? This class is for you! There will not be a formal presentation, but instead Laurie will be there to answer questions and provide assistance.

## Google Tip:

Using Google Classroom? To save yourself headaches in the long run, one thing you'll want to do is to create simple and consistent naming conventions for every assignment you add. Consider including the semester or school year to keep things organized. Example: #021 Unit 1 Quiz (To have them display in alphabetical order, number them 001, 002, 003...) It's not too late to begin this practice if you haven't already done so, and you'll be so happy you did when you go to locate your materials!

## What is SAMR?

SAMR is a framework through which you can assess and evaluate the technology you use in your class.

### Substitution

In a substitution level, students are using new technology tools to replace old ones. An example would be using Google Docs to replace handwriting. The task (writing) is the same but the tools are different.

### Augmentation

Though it is a different level, we are still substituting but with added functionalities. Again using the example of Google docs, instead of only writing a document and having to manually save it and share it with others, Google Docs provides extra services like text-to-speech and auto saving.

### Modification

This is the level where technology is being used more effectively not to do the same task using different tools but to redesign new parts of the task and transform student learning. An example of this is using the commenting service in Google Docs, for instance, to collaborate and share feedback on a given task.

### Redefinition

If you are to place this level in Blooms revised taxonomy pyramid, it would probably correspond to synthesis and evaluation as being the highest order thinking skills. Students would convey analytic thought and incorporate multimedia tools.

Here it is explained in a quick two-minute video: [goo.gl/wZQCHq](https://goo.gl/wZQCHq)

## Curricular or Calendar Links:

The Teacher's Corner is a great resource for monthly activities. Check it out here: <https://www.theteacherscorner.net/calendars/september.php>

You might also want to check them out for daily writing prompts, pen pal activities, seasonal bulletin board ideas and much more. <https://www.theteacherscorner.net/>

Using Seesaw? Join an online training session (or two!) and learn how to use Seesaw from the comfort of your couch. There are more than [30 training sessions](#) across all subject areas and grade levels planned. There are also short, 10-minute "sprint" sessions that cover specific Seesaw features. You can attend any session free - by registering here: <https://goo.gl/48ki2L> You can also view any recorded sessions on the Seesaw website at: <https://goo.gl/zWJOMH>

**Fall Technology Sessions 2016: NEVIS SCHOOLS**  
**All sessions held in Business Lab (unless otherwise noted)**

Nevis	Topic
<b>Thursday, Sept 22</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Questions &amp; Work Time</b> Trying out Google Classroom and need some questions answered? Can't remember what you learned last summer in a tech class? Need some time to set up some classroom technology? This class is for you! There will not be a formal presentation, but instead Laurie will be there to answer questions and provide assistance.
<b>Monday, Oct 3</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Using Technology to Improve Classroom Behavior</b> Managing a 21st Century Classroom can be a tall order. Find out ways of Improving your overall classroom behaviors by using technology to increase the frequency and consistency of positive feedback, manage behavior interventions, and keep easier records for goal setting.
<b>Wednesday, Oct 26</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Seesaw Student Portfolios</b> Seesaw allows students and teachers to easily post items into a student portfolio, which can also be shared with families. Children as young as preschool can learn how to scan a QR code to add an image or document, and teachers have full control of everything posted. Seesaw is a powerful tool, yet is easy to use...and free!
<b>Wednesday, Nov 2</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Make Data Easier with Google Forms</b> Parent Surveys, Student Quizzes, Data Collection, all can be gathered and organized efficiently with Google Forms. Forms allows you to create surveys and quizzes and will automatically bounce the information to a connected spreadsheet. Display survey data or using add-ons, like flubaroo, you can grade quizzes and tests, making your formative or summative assessment much more efficient. Bring materials to create
<b>Monday, Nov 7</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Blogging 101</b> Looking for a way to engage parents? How about a venue for your students to share their work? Maybe a place to post items for your class? Or even a spot where you can discuss topics and/or share your knowledge? We will create blogs using Blogger (included free in the Google Apps suite), where you'll learn to personalize your blog, create links, embed content and media, and share it with others.
<b>Monday, Nov 28</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Exploring Educreations</b> Educreations has some great updates that make it the perfect tool for every classroom. We will start with an Educreations how-to and then give you time to plan a few projects within your curriculum and determine how you could use them. Finish off by sharing your ideas with the group and posting them to your own Educreations classroom account. You will also hear about similar apps and the different features that make them unique.
<b>Thursday, Dec 8</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Formative Assessments with Quizizz &amp; Kahoot</b> Quizizz and Kahoot are two free game-based learning platforms that make it fun to review and learn. Both have their own special features, and work in any subject, in any language, on any device – for all ages! Learn to use them, find teacher-created activities, and learn to create your own. You will have time to create: bring a quiz or review activity.
<b>Wednesday, Dec 14</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Virtual Reality with Google Cardboard</b> You've heard about it, now come and try it out! Explore Virtual Reality apps and their usefulness in the classroom during this hands-on workshop. Bring either your Android or Apple phone, the Cardboard viewers will be provided for session use. Walk away with lesson plan ideas, as well as adaptations for use with or without a viewer.

## Fall Technology Sessions 2016: PARK RAPIDS SCHOOLS

All sessions held in Century Elementary Computer Lab (unless otherwise noted)

Park Rapids	Topic
<b>Wednesday, Sept 28</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Questions &amp; Work Time</b> Trying out Google Classroom and need some questions answered? Can't remember what you learned last summer in a tech class? Need some time to set up some classroom technology? This class is for you! There will not be a formal presentation, but instead Laurie will be there to answer questions and provide assistance.
<b>Tuesday, Oct 4</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Using Technology to Improve Classroom Behavior</b> Managing a 21st Century Classroom can be a tall order. Find out ways of Improving your overall classroom behaviors by using technology to increase the frequency and consistency of positive feedback, manage behavior interventions, and keep easier records for goal setting.
<b>Monday, Oct 10</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Seesaw Student Portfolios</b> Seesaw allows students and teachers to easily post items into a student portfolio, which can also be shared with families. Children as young as preschool can learn how to scan a QR code to add an image or document, and teachers have full control of everything posted. Seesaw is a powerful tool, yet is easy to use...and free!
<b>Thursday, Nov 3</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Make Data Easier with Google Forms</b> Parent Surveys, Student Quizzes, Data Collection, all can be gathered and organized efficiently with Google Forms. Forms allows you to create surveys and quizzes and will automatically bounce the information to a connected spreadsheet. Display survey data or using add-ons, like flubaroo, you can grade quizzes and tests, making your formative or summative assessment much more efficient. Bring materials to create
<b>Wednesday, Nov 9</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Blogging 101</b> Looking for a way to engage parents? How about a venue for your students to share their work? Maybe a place to post items for your class? Or even a spot where you can discuss topics and/or share your knowledge? We will create blogs using Blogger (included free in the Google Apps suite), where you'll learn to personalize your blog, create links, embed content and media, and share it with others.
<b>Wednesday, Nov 30</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Exploring Educreations</b> Educreations has some great updates that make it the perfect tool for every classroom. We will start with an Educreations how-to and then give you time to plan a few projects within your curriculum and determine how you could use them. Finish off by sharing your ideas with the group and posting them to your own Educreations classroom account. You will also hear about similar apps and the different features that make them unique.
<b>Tuesday, Dec 6</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Formative Assessments with Quizizz &amp; Kahoot</b> Quizizz and Kahoot are two free game-based learning platforms that make it fun to review and learn. Both have their own special features, and work in any subject, in any language, on any device – for all ages! Learn to use them, find teacher-created activities, and learn to create your own. You will have time to create: bring a quiz or review activity.
<b>Thursday, Dec 15</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Virtual Reality with Google Cardboard</b> You've heard about it, now come and try it out! Explore Virtual Reality apps and their usefulness in the classroom during this hands-on workshop. Bring either your Android or Apple phone, the Cardboard viewers will be provided for session use. Walk away with lesson plan ideas, as well as adaptations for use with or without a viewer.