



Technology Newsletter Nettle Creek School

The Nettle Creek technology classes focus on four basic strategies to make students technology literate.

- Vocabulary
- Keyboarding
- Digital Citizenship
- Research

Students continue to use Google docs to organize and present their work in class. New vocabulary words are added to a master list that each student keeps in a Google word processing document.

Kindergarten, first, and second grades have transitioned from iPads to desktop computers for much of their work so they can get comfortable with using a physical keyboard and a mouse. This will help them be comfortable with computer ergonomics when they switch to laptops in the classroom.

Digital citizenship remains a regular feature of class. Computer technology is an amazing tool, but the virtual world has protocols of proper behavior, just like the real world. Navigating the online world requires that the students be given direction on how to assess the validity of what they discover while doing research.

Word processing, presentations, and spreadsheets are the main components of productivity suites. Nettle Creek uses Google Docs for those applications. So far this year we have learned the various features

of word processing, and are currently exploring the power of presentations. Students have done research that they first put into Google Docs in a raw form, then learn how to move the information and graphics between apps, finally making a slide presentation with a combination of pictures, videos, animation, transitions, and text. Students are fine tuning their work to present their slide shows in class.

We spent much of the month of December on coding, one of the students favorite projects. It was part of the national program called Hour of Code and allowed students to write and debug code and create small programs. They learned about a project in Boston that uses an app to help citizens adopt fire hydrants to make sure they all are dug out of snow banks. This simple app has saved countless buildings. Maybe someday one of our junior programmers will code an app that helps the world!