



Computer Lab Newsletter Fall 2014

Greetings everyone from the land of keyboards and monitors! We are off to a great start this school year.

As a first year teacher assistant, I am learning new things every day from my exceptionally experienced colleagues and my technically terrific students. My goals are to prepare our students for the challenges of higher grades by teaching them how to make technology work for them in the most efficient way possible, to use a rich and valuable curriculum to achieve those goals, and to meet and exceed our state standards.

Our first and second graders are learning how to log in to a computer using a username and password. Since the keyboard has all capital letters, we are learning how to translate the small letters in their names into capital letters on the keyboard. We play keyboarding games to learn where the letters are on the keyboard. We have also learned about internet safety, what personal information is and how it should and should not be used.

Our third through fifth graders are working hard on memorizing their usernames and passwords. We are learning the fundamentals of keyboarding (typing in my day) and the students are amazed at how two hands, eight fingers and two thumbs can work faster than hunting and pecking with only one or two fingers on one hand. I incorporate spelling and poetry in to these exercises. (They have to have something to type, so why not poetry? And yes they groaned when I mentioned it.) I will also incorporate their classroom curriculum in to their computer lab time so that we can use computer lab for research and writing projects that are required in their respective grades. It will help these projects if the students can type first.

We are growing great leaders at Hazelwood Elementary and I am grateful to be a part of it.

Melanie Threlkeld McConnell