

Technology Class Newsletter

April Smith's Classroom
Cahaba Elementary School

Technology Learning Standards

Students have 7 major learning goals in Technology Class.

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.



Welcome to April Smith's Technology Classroom

www.aprilsmith.org

Welcome to April Smith's Technology Classroom at Cahaba Elementary School! My class newsletters are designed to inform you about what your child is learning and to share your child's experiences in our classroom. This first newsletter will provide you with a little information about myself, an overview of what your student will be learning in technology class, and how to utilize our classroom's online learning platform.

Who Is Mrs. Smith



I am from Opelika, Alabama. I went to Auburn University to major in music performance. After moving to Moody, Alabama in 2007, I went back to school at UAB and double majored 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 to Don Smith. He is the Economic Development Director for St. Clair County. I have three children. My daughter's name is Hannah. She is twelve years old. I have two sons. My oldest son, Jackson, is eleven and my youngest son, Connor, is nine.

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 an loyal Auburn Football fan, Star Wars guru, comic book geek, and tech nerd.

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.

I felt have a calling to the teaching profession. I love what I do! 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! All of my classes are viewable on our online learning platform at www.aprilsmith.org.



THE CLASSROOM LEARNING PLATFORM



Student, parents, and teachers can utilize our classroom learning platform found at www.aprilsmith.org. Please bear with me as I transfer this platform from a Social Studies Class Platform to a Technology Class Platform. There are 8 tabs across the top of the website. Here is what you'll find under each tab.

WELCOME PAGE

The welcome page is the home page of the website. Here you will find class news and announcements and instructions for how to navigate the website.

TECH CLASS

The tech class tab is where students go for technology class lessons. You can see when your child has technology class and explore exactly what your child is learning in class.

STUDY GUIDES

The study guides tab contains arcade games and flashcards to help students study for tests and quizzes in their academic classes.

PROJECTS

The projects tab contains in and out of class project information and resources for students academic classes.

GAMES

The games tab contains educational and fun games, interactives, and simulations meant to support and enhance the content and skills that they learn in their academic classes.

TEACHERS

The teachers tab contains professional development, instructional slides and videos, and a plethora of educational resources for teachers that are categorized by subject matter.

PARENTS

The parents tab contains photo galleries of your kids in technology class, resources and information about student development, school policies and procedures, and commonly used forms and websites.

CONTACT

The contact tab contains information about me, the technology teacher, a portal for students to submit projects and assignments, and a contact form for students, parents, and teachers to contact me or make requests.