Teaching Young Minds Virtually

Principal Name: Sara Porter
School Name: Pleasant Ridge Elementary
Principal's Email Contact: sporter@gccschools.com

Background Leading to My Inquiry

A vast amount of students for the first time ever forced to learn virtually. Educators were not trained how to teach full time virtually. Most primary age students are new to computers and have difficulty using a mouse to navigate. I was curious in learning more about various platforms and resources available for teachers teaching virtually.

The Purpose of My Inquiry

As an instructional leader I wanted to learn about the various platforms to better understand their capabilities in providing teachers and students the best opportunity to learn and teach virtually. I was curious in learning about which platform would create engaging and differentiated instruction the best for teachers and a platform where teachers could monitor student understanding easily.

My Wondering

What is the best platform for educators to utilize while teaching virtually to benefit primary aged learners the most?

My Actions

    -Exploration of platforms available
    -Researched characteristics of Google Classroom and Seesaw
    -Interviewed teachers at Pleasant Ridge
    -Interviewed teachers from other schools in our district
    -Attended webinars and professional development
    -Observed virtual and traditional students using the platforms

My Data

Teachers shared both positive and negative features of Google Classroom

+	-
+ Everything can be housed in Google Classroom +The suite of applications (Slides) work pretty seamlessly with Google Classroom. +Millions of extensions	-If the teacher returns an assignment students don't receive a notification -In primary grades, students can't receive feedback besides written -Too many extensions that are not created by Google so lots of kinks when trying to introduce to students (like recording audio)

Teachers shared both positive and negative features of Seesaw

+	-
+Kids can record verbal response +Work can be returned easily for revision and teacher can provide verbal feedback. Easy for teacher to record audio instructions. +Student response can be submit in different formats such as drawing. +Seesaw Activity Library loaded with many ready to use engaging lessons. +Parents can see student portfolios, response from teachers, and work. +Age appropriate navigation	-Overwhelming to navigate for teacher initially but saves teacher lots of time later. -Not able to assign due dates -Our district said use Google Classroom

Collection of key features learned

"Seesaw is used by over 10 M teachers, students, and family members every month across more than 75% of schools in the US." (Seesaw, 2021)

"Thousands of educator-approved apps integrate with Classroom to spark creativity and enable unlimited opportunities for learning." (Google for Education, 2021)

"Seesaw platform encourages creativity and feedback that makes students excited to learn." (Seesaw, 2021)

"Seesaw design for students audio comments and/or digital drawings after a lesson" (Clifford, 2020)

"I would have had so many more tears this year if it hadn't been for Seesaw and now I'm finding even more ways to use it and make my life easier!" (Dyke, 2021)

My Discoveries

Learning Statement 1: Google Classroom is a great main hub in which to launch Seesaw and other virtual tools and sites.

Learning Statement 2: Seesaw is the best for monitoring student understanding towards mastery

Learning Statement 3: Kindergarten-Second grade students can navigate both Google Classroom and Seesaw easily once taught.

Where I Am Heading Next

Both Google Classroom and Seesaw are continuing to evolve. New features are added and updates are sent out frequently. I need to continue to learn and create a professional development plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

This year has proven that educators are adaptable and have a willingness to meet the needs of their students at all times. Continuous professional development is essential in learning how to blend best instructional practices with technology platforms and resources available to teachers.

Bibliography

Clifford, Stephanie, (2020, October, 25) Schools Clamored for Seesaw's App. That was Good News, and Bad News. The New York Times. www. nytimes.com/2020/10/25/technology/seesaw school app.html

Google (2021). Google Classroom https://classroom.google.com

Seesaw (2021). Where Learning Happens. web.seesaw.me

TEACHING YOUNG MINDS VIRTUALLY

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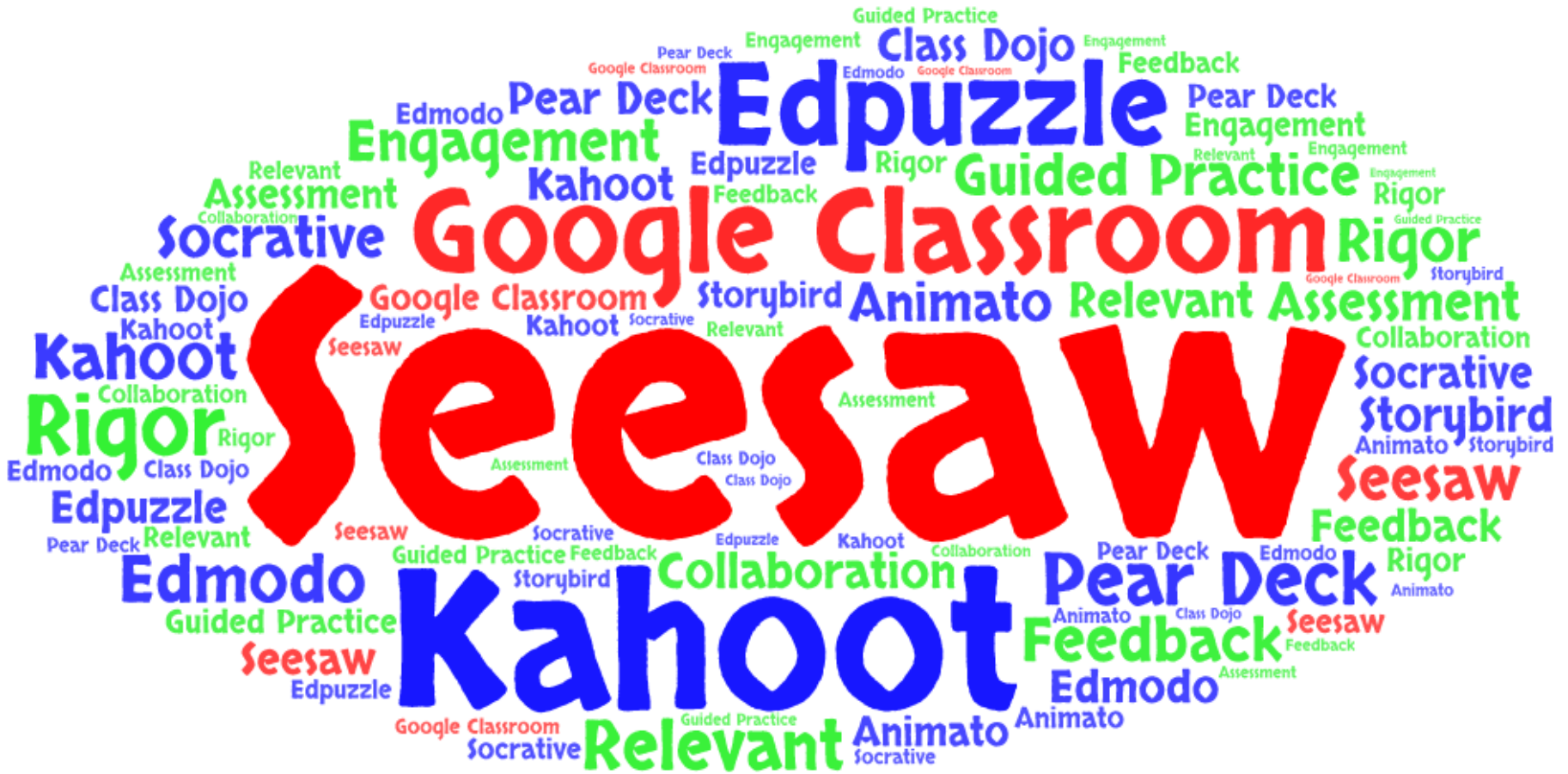Principal's Email: sporter@gccschools.com

HOW CAN I MAKE SURE ONLINE STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL WHEN LEARNING VIRTUALLY?

- Age Group 5-8 year olds
- Computer features are new to many
- Google Classroom
- Seesaw

PURPOSE OF THIS INQUIRY

To gain insight into the best platform to deliver instruction virtually for primary aged students.

What is the best platform for educators to utilize while teaching virtually to benefit primary aged learners the most?

MY ACTIONS

- Exploration of platforms available

- Research characteristics of Seesaw and Google classroom.

- Multiple Teacher interviews

- Listen to webinars and professional development

- Student observations of traditional students and virtual

DATA COLLECTION

Teacher Interviews-Google Classroom

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+ Everything can be housed in Google Classroom	-If the teacher returns an assignment students don't receive a notification
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MY DISCOVERIES

1. Google Classroom is a great main hub in which to launch Seesaw.

2. Seesaw is best for monitoring student understanding.

3. Kindergarten-Second grade students can navigate both Google Classroom and Seesaw well with proper training.

LEARNING STATEMENT 1

Google Classroom is a great main hub in which to launch Seesaw and other virtual tools and sites.
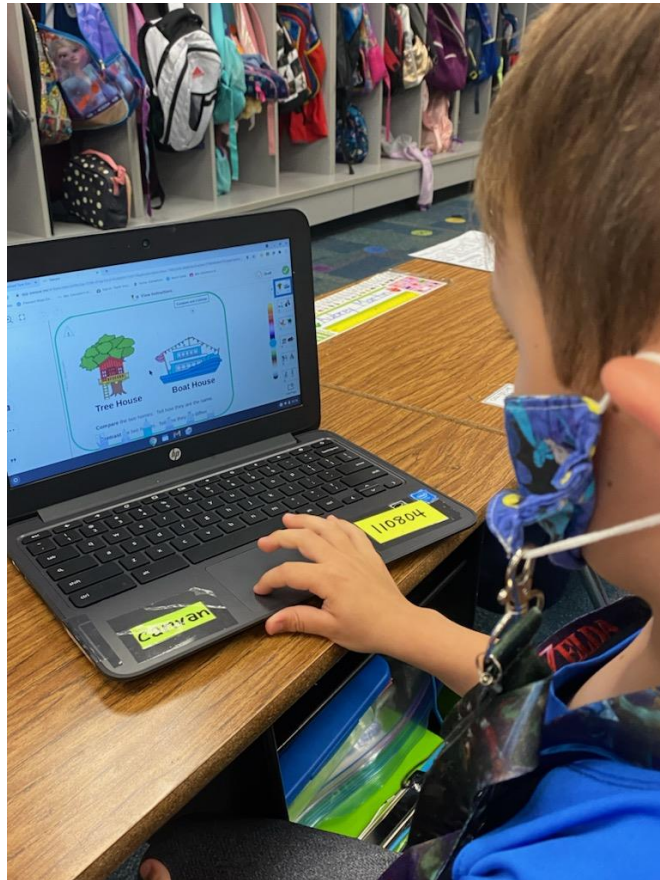
LEARNING STATEMENT 2

Seesaw is best for monitoring student understanding towards mastery.
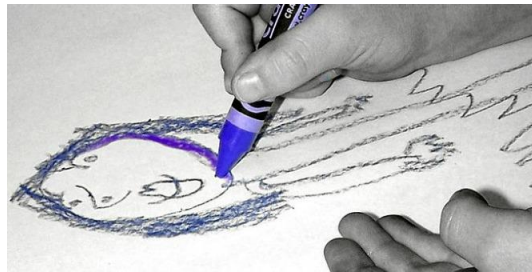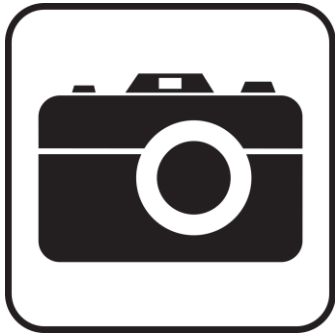
LEARNING STATEMENT 3

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[Mrs. Edmiston's students using Seesaw](#)

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- Clifford, Stephanie, (2020, October, 25) *Schools Clamored for Seesaw's App. That was Good News, and Bad News.* The New York Times. www.nytimes.com/2020/10/25/technology/seesaw-school-app.html

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