INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING
NSSEO TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Innovative teaching and learning provides opportunities for students to engage in their learning connect with others and develop skills to be successful in life. It supports the NSSEO Continuous Improvement Plan through Instructional Practices and embeds 21st Century learning. Innovative teaching and learning teaches students to collaborate, be creative, communicate, and develop critical thinking skills. NSSEO’s Innovative Learning Coaches and STEM teachers provide coaching support to teaching staff to leverage technology to support student learning.

VIRTUAL REALITY

Virtual Reality is a new opportunity for NSSEO students and is supported through Nearpod. It provides a panoramic view of sites that can be explored through mobile devices and VR goggles. NSSEO subscribes to Nearpod which combines virtual reality with traditional lesson plans for a more immersive, technology-driven approach to learning. Students are exploring the use of VR to support learning in social studies and science. Students have participated in “Choose Your Own Adventure” and explored New York, Peru, Mexico and France. They also were able to explore the planet Mars.

Table of Contents

- Virtual Reality
- Breakout Edu
- NSSEO on Social Media
- Hour of Code
- Global Read Aloud
- Kirk Student Newspaper
- Expanded Universal Augmentative and Alternative Communication Program
- Readtopia

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BREAKOUT EDU

Breakout EDU is an immersive game in which players work collaboratively to solve a series of critical thinking puzzles in order to open a locked box. Multiple locks are on the box and each clue solved allows students to unlock one lock. Invisible ink pens and UV lights are included to make the game challenging and fun. Breakout EDU can be used for all subject areas. Students have used Breakout EDU games to reinforce literacy and math. They have played Candy Caper, If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, and Elf.

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https://twitter.com/nsseo_org
https://www.instagram.com/nsseo_org/

HOUR OF CODE

The Hour of Code was expanded this year to include classrooms at Miner, Timber Ridge, Kirk, Riley, River Trails, and Forest Elementary. Students participated in coding robots and coding on the computer. Coding allowed students to explore computer science. Students worked on problem solving, following directions, following simple multi-step commands, and embedding core vocabulary into the coding activities. The students continue to work throughout the year on coding and robotics.
GLOBAL READ ALOUD
The Global Read Aloud program was expanded from Timber Ridge to classrooms at Miner, Kirk and Riley.

The goal is to connect with others around the world on specific book titles. During the month of October and November, teachers read specific grade level books aloud and shared book insights with others around the Globe. Our classrooms connected in a variety of ways including skyping with classrooms, sharing ideas through an online bulletin board and tweeting about the books. This allowed students to flatten their classroom walls to connect and communicate with others about a common story.

KIRK STUDENT NEWSPAPER
The Paw Print Press is open to all students. It is an opportunity for students to share their work and how they write with an alternative pencil.

Students access the alphabet with their AAC devices, alphabet boards, scanning alphabet boards and on the keyboard. The paper has completed two issues and is working on its third issue. Student articles are usually captions of pictures that are taken from the curriculum or from CBI trips.
EXPANDED UNIVERSAL AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION PROGRAM

The Universal AAC program was expanded to additional classrooms across NSSEO through the support of the Assistive Technology and Instructional Technology Teams. Building based teams were given the supports to make data based decisions to provide additional students individual iPads with TouchChat/WordPower. Teams were provided professional development and coaching which focused on using Core Words to expand communication. Our students are increasing their communication skills in the classroom, community and home environments.

READTOPIA

Miner School and Kirk School participated in a pilot program from Don Johnston, Inc. Readtopia is a comprehensive reading program for students who take alternate assessment. The program includes graphic novels on six levels, informational texts, videos to support background knowledge, phonics and writing components. The program was developed by national speakers including Dr. Karen Erickson Director of Literacy and Disabilities Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Dr. Caroline Musselwhite who has over 30 years supporting literacy for students with significant intellectual disabilities. At Kirk, three high school classrooms participated in the pilot. A junior high and four high school classrooms piloted the curriculum at Miner. Social Studies and Science concepts are embedded into the lessons. Students read novels Sacagawea and Journey to the Center of the Earth. They learned about Native Americans and volcanoes.