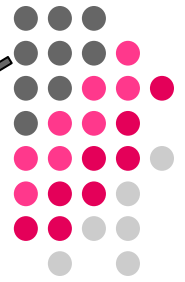# Welcome to Technology! 2014-2015

Welcome to Technology 2014-2015 I am currently entering my eleventh year at Heatherwood and looking forward to a fun year of technology with our exciting online format called 3D GameLab. The concepts that students will be learning in the Heatherwood technology classes align with the Washington State Technology Standards providing them with the foundation for their use of technology & 21st Century Skills essential for high school and beyond. I am available before and after school if you need to contact me. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours and prefer to communicate through email since I can do so before my own kids are up in the morning and after they go to bed at night. Additionally, I will have more frequent opportunities to check email throughout the school day.

Just a little note about myself.... I am entering my thirteenth year teaching in the Everett Public Schools. I have taught at all levels from elementary to high school. My husband and I are both in education which allows us to enjoy our vacations filled with road trips, camping, & other fun family activities with our two children, Ethan (12), & Madeline (7) and lab puppy Avery (6 months).

I am looking forward to a fun year of technology at Heatherwood. If at any time you have any concerns or questions please contact me.

Follow important class announcements & reminders on Twitter!

@techlabteach

Go to Mrs. Pewitt's website for more information on our innovative Tech class format!

Washington State Technology Standards

Integration

⇨ **Innovate**

⇨ **Collaborate**

⇨ **Investigate & Think Critically**

Digital Citizenship

⇨ **Practice Safety**

⇨ **Operate Systems**

⇨ **Select & Use Applications**

⇨ **Adapt to Change/Technological Fluency**

Washington State K-12 Educational Technology Learning Standards

Please visit Mrs. Pewitt's class website at:
http://everettsd.schoolwires.net//Domain/904

Heatherwood Middle School   spewitt@everettsd.org   425.385.6426

Help!

2014~2015

What is 3D GameLab?

There are two semesters that make up our school year at Heatherwood. It is **very important** that students keep up with their daily work and assignments/projects in tech class. In addition, the 3D GameLab online format in tech class has a central focus on being a _self-directed learner_ where it is critical that students listen and read instructions carefully & stay on task. **3D GameLab is a quest-based learning platform for students.**

This format will allow you to work at your own pace & to get more immediate feedback from Mrs. Pewitt in order to meet standard on all your quests & continue to have more quests available. However, all summative (final) quests MUST be turned in by the set final due date of the semester in order to have a positive experience and receive full credit.

It is always best to come in for help when needed and ask questions sooner rather than later.

Applications Covered

Depending on the grade level, students will be completing quests on 3D GameLab that cover the features and effective use of Microsoft Office 2010, Adobe Photoshop Elements, Digital & video camera use, Google Drive, web 2.0 tools and a variety of online applications. If you need help with finding computer access before or after school, please let me know.

At the beginning of the semester your students will be participating in lessons focused on students becoming safe, responsible digital citizens online. I would encourage all parents/guardians to go to the following website to see the grade level lessons.
www.commonsensemedia.org

Grading Criteria

Due to the nature of the self-paced 3D GameLab format, all students will be working to complete their quests by the **end of the semester**. In order to **_complete_** a quest, students have to meet **standard** (pre-set and specifically outlined criteria). Students will participate in quests where they learn/refine skills through shorter formative projects. When they complete these formative projects they will have the necessary skills to demonstrate their proficiency on their summative project.

When logging into the **LMS** online you will see the following:

GRADES & MORE

Formative Projects:

CR= Credit, project met standard

IP= In Progress, student is working within an application.

Summative Projects:

The grading criteria for this class will be as follows: All grades will be on a **4,3,2,1** scale; **4** is "exceeding standard", **3** is "at standard." Summative projects make up 100% of the grade. You **WILL NOT** see items show up as **missing** as in other classes due to the self-paced format of the class.

Therefore, the grades represent their progress & progress within a particular unit **_at that time_**...not overall grade. At the end of the semester, any summative projects that have not been completed will be calculated as incomplete negatively impacting the overall grade.

Open Lab Times!!!

I am available to work with students Monday-Friday before and after school. The times can vary depending on my after school meetings etc. Please contact me _(preferably by email)_ if your student needs extra assistance or would like to come in and use the lab. Each week I post my schedule under _Open Lab Times_ on my website. Please check it to make sure we can find a time that works.