

NC DPI
Teacher Spotlight 051415 – Plecnik

Plecnik: **Katherine Plecnik**

[MUSIC]

Plecnik: Hello. My name is Katherine Plecnik, and I'm the Title I literacy teacher at Carr Elementary. And I'm so excited today to have the opportunity to share with you two ways that I use Schoolnet in my classroom to accelerate my students' literacy achievement.

I use Schoolnet primarily for two purposes. I use Schoolnet to access instructional materials to use with my students, and I also use the templates within Schoolnet to create my own lesson plans and resources.

As a Title I literacy teacher, I have [ph] students who can benefit from strategic support and literacy, to succeed with their grade levels' core [ph] English language arts curriculum. I work with students from different grade levels, with diverse needs. So it's important that I have access to a wide variety of instructional materials, and that's just what Schoolnet provides.

Schoolnet has resources for grades K through 12, which helps me differentiate the core to meet my students' needs. Using the Schoolnet resource repository also helps ensure that I am using high-quality instructional materials with my students, because everything in Schoolnet has been vetted by professionals from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, so you know that you are accessing high-quality materials that are aligned to the appropriate standards. And of course, we know that alignment to standards is key

because alignment is one of the number one predictors of student success on standardized achievement tests.

Using the Schoolnet resource repository is also time-efficient because I don't have to use multiple online search engines to find what my students need. It's all right there for me, in one place.

Schoolnet has everything from interactive games that you can use on your interactive whiteboard, to PDFs that you can print and copy to use with your students. And all of the resources in Schoolnet are free, so you'll never be taken to a link that requires you or your school to purchase anything.

The second way that I use Schoolnet is the templates, because Schoolnet provides templates that you can use to create your own unit plans, lesson plans, and resources. So it's a great resource to use when you're doing your lesson planning.

The templates within Schoolnet are comprehensive. The lesson plan template includes everything from the learning targets and criteria for success, to how you're going to cultivate and maintain student engagement during your lesson.

And you can link materials from Schoolnet to the lesson plans that you create. So if you find a graphic organizer in Schoolnet that you want to use in a lesson plan that you've made, you can easily link that graphic organizer directly to your lesson. Again, it's about having everything that you need right there for you, in one place.

I'm going to briefly demonstrate these two ways that you can use Schoolnet in your classroom. [MUSIC]

Once you've logged into Schoolnet, all you have to do to access the instructional materials is to click on "Classrooms," and "Instructional Materials." Then you'll be taken to your search options. You can search by content area. You can search by grade level. You can even search by standard. So if you want to view everything that Schoolnet has available for a particular standard, you can do that too. And it will pull up every instructional unit, lesson plan, assessment item and resource that Schoolnet has for that particular standard. And it's hyperlinked for you, so you can click on the number and it will take you directly to all of the resources that Schoolnet has available.

You can even search by a particular keyword or a standard ID. So there are many search options available in the Schoolnet resource repository.

If you want to use Schoolnet to create your own lesson plans and instructional units, you can do that too, by clicking again on "Classrooms," "Instructional Materials," and finding the "Create" button. You can create lesson plans, instructional units, assessment items or resources. If you click on one of those options, and then click on "Go," it will take you to the template.

You can see how there are tabs for this lesson plan template. It takes you directly through the process. So it's very user-friendly.

I hope that you are able to use one or both of these tools in Schoolnet to help with your students' achievement. And if you're interested in more information on the Schoolnet instructional resources and templates, the North

Carolina Department of Public Instruction has some wonderful webinars available on their website that you can access and view for additional information. Thank you so much for listening.

[MUSIC]

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