

NC DPI
Teacher Spotlight 1029, Katy Rainey

Rainey: **Katy Rainey**

[MUSIC]

Rainey: I'm Katy Rainey, and I teach at Flat Rock Middle School. I teach 8th grade social studies, and I'm a part of the Governor Teachers Network. The second pathway, which I create lessons and units for, is 8th grade social studies.

[MUSIC]

Rainey: This year with GTN, I have created two different units. One is on the American Revolution and how conflict, compromise and negotiation played into the American Revolution. And then the other one that I did, was about creating a government and how our American democracy started, and how it has carried through to the present day.

[MUSIC]

Rainey: This year I have decided to use the lesson-plan template from Schoolnet because it was a very easy way to lesson plan, versus some of the other templates that have been out there. Our school redid our lesson-plan template anyway, so we went with the Schoolnet one. Since West and Forsyth County bought into it, we figured why not use it.

The benefits, there are so many. To me it's easy to use, it's very user friendly. You can change fonts, font sizes. You can make bulleted lists. You can make numbered lists. It—teachers are really able to tailor it to however they want

to create their own lesson plans. You know, it's going to benefit everybody from a pre-K teacher all the way through 12th grade (teachers) who have multiple preps.

The other thing that I really like about Schoolnet is that you can really—it really makes you stop and think to make sure that your lessons are meeting the standards. I really like that you can just click the standards and not have to write out every single standard. It also allows you to make sure that you are meeting the needs of all of your students. If you're like me, in a social studies class, you could have somebody who is a AIG and then somebody who is in a resource classroom, so making sure that you're meeting the needs of all of those students and thinking about the actual processes of how our brain works and remembers information.

[MUSIC]

Rainey: The other feature of Schoolnet that I have used a lot this year is the lesson planner. I love that I can create my own lessons and then just simply drag them from my lesson-plan bank all the way onto my calendar. It helps keep me accountable. With the lesson planner you can have a different—there's a different calendar for each one of your classes that you teach. So it's easy to keep yourself organized. And it actually—if the lesson goes on for six days—it'll actually stretch into the next week. And it is moveable [ph], which is something that I really like because it helps keep me organized without having to keep a paper calendar.

[MUSIC]

Rainey: I've really enjoyed being able to use Schoolnet this year and really learning for the first time how to use it through GTN and then using it also within my daily

practices as a teacher. I look forward to continuing to use it next year and discovering the other little intricacies of Schoolnet because there are so many great options out there.

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