

Summer Technology Institute

Instructional Technology Programs

August 3 - 5, 2021

Strand 3

Empowering Young Learners Through Making



Allison Fluet

First Grade Teacher
Mabel I. Wilson School
Cumberland Center, Maine

allison.fluet@maine.edu

@AFluetA 



Sarah Gray

Kindergarten Teacher
Mabel I. Wilson School
Cumberland Center, Maine

sarahpgray@gmail.com

@mrssarahgray 

Strand Description

Young children are naturally inquisitive, empathic, and creative. In this strand, we will explore methods of engaging young learners with hands on making and creating to promote critical thinking, ownership and agency during these formative years. There will be multiple access points to meet participants at their need and interest level. Areas of potential inquiry include creative expression, hands on making, interactive lessons, and STEAM. Participants will consider the power of an integrated STEAM block to offer students the space to explore, discover, think critically, collaborate, communicate, and create.

Strand Outcomes

Learn how to implement a STEAM workshop into an early elementary classroom.

- Consider ways to integrate curriculum into STEAM block.
- Recognize the significance of empathy in a Maker classroom.
- Uncover opportunities to develop creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills.
- Discover digital tools that enhance learning.

Presenters Biographies

Allison Fluet has taught first grade for 18 years. She graduated in May 2020 with a M.Ed in Instructional Technology from the University of Maine. She was honored to be the recipient of the 2020 Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology. Allison has a passion for STEAM in early childhood and integrating technology for student and teacher empowerment. While she would not consider herself an expert, she is an avid learner and collaborator. She is living the life of a first-grade teacher who learns from

mistakes and discovers new opportunities along the way. She is excited about the opportunity to facilitate learning with other educators at the Summer Technology Institute.

Sarah Gray has taught kindergarten for 15 years. She received her M.Ed in Early Childhood Education from the University of Maine at Farmington in 2013. Sarah loves to integrate technology into her Kindergarten classroom to empower her students by increasing their access to and engagement with learning. She is also passionate about helping staff grow and thrive with technology. Sarah loves learning and trying new things in the classroom as well as problem solving when something new doesn't go as planned. Allison, Sarah, and a coworker Jordan Driscoll, began Little Bytes in 2020 to support staff, families, and students in our district. We have created a website of resources and tutorials, provide weekly professional development, and monthly emailed tech tips. Sarah is excited to be a part of the Summer Technology Institute.