

Summer Technology Institute

Instructional Technology Programs

August 4-6, 2020

Workshop 3

Designing Playful Google Classroom Learning Spaces for Young Learners



Simone Elias

Technology Teacher
McGlynn Elementary School
Medford, MA
selias@medford.k12.ma.us

Workshop Description

Age-level design of optimal virtual learning spaces is particularly important during times of remote teaching and learning. Google Classrooms (GC) are text-heavy and not designed for young learners who may not be strong readers. Bitmojis and emojis can transform Google Classrooms into playful and creative learning spaces that spark curiosity. In this interactive workshop, K-5 educators will explore how to integrate Bitmojis and Emojis in their Google Classrooms. Participants will engage in hands-on activities with Bitmojis as well as learn how to use templates and Chrome extensions to enhance the GC experience for elementary students. As the participants create and customize their own Google Classroom Banner, they will also explore specific GC design strategies and tips on using emojis when posting GC topics and material.

Presenter Biography

Simone is a K-5 technology teacher at the McGlynn Elementary School in Medford, Massachusetts. She also teaches and chairs doctoral dissertations in a doctor of education program. She has been in the field of education for about 15 years and has completed extensive online teaching training. Simone holds a Master of Education in Instructional Technology from Cambridge College and a Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership from Northeastern University. During her doctoral studies, she was awarded the Academic Excellence Award at the doctoral level. She was also the recipient of the International New Directions in the Humanities Graduate Scholar Award for her research on hybrid education. Besides K-12 positions, Simone has held academic faculty positions in higher education institutions in Massachusetts, Texas, and North Carolina.