

Ukulele Music

Keith: welcome to the leecoschools edcast number 11 with the tech coaches this is Andrew click patty Henderson and Laela bun and just what a bright group of folks right Kyle

Kyle: absolutely yeah and so for those who don't know tech coaches what their job is is to go around to all of our schools and help integrate technology into the lesson plans of teachers you know and

Keith: not for not just for the sake of using technology but to make the lessons and the information more accessible to the students absolutely easier to comprehend

Kyle: yep absolutely um you know they have a lot of tools that they'll talk about we're gonna link a lot of our tools in the show notes we couldn't get to probably half of the tools that they know just some things that would help some of the immediate assessment tools like kahoot some of the other things that that really sort of get kids interested in being involved in the process instead of just you know school isn't the same way as it used to be where you have rote memorization you have the rows of desks and things like that the school looks different now because we found and studies have found that kids learn better that way yeah so I cannot say enough how proud I am that our system has decided to have tech coaches because it's really just helping us move those two steps forward

Keith: well and it's a wonderful asset to the students I think they're doing a great job and their their love for what they do I think really comes comes through

Kyle: it does absolutely and you'll hear in just a few minutes but um you know it's not about the tools for them either they prefer being involved in a lesson but they prefer being involved in student-centered learning being out in the schools and then so

Keith: yeah so if you find yourself with any questions comments complaints criticisms compliments colloquialisms conundrums concerns or even any suggestions for future podcasts or topics you would like to hear us talk about you can find us on the web at www.lee.k12.al.us/edcast, you can find us on twitter @leecoschools on facebook at facebook.com/leecoschools or by email at edcast@lee.k12.al.us Kyle...

Kyle: here we go

Funky Transition Music

Keith: so tell us about your professional journey how you got here how you got to what you're doing on

Tech Coaches: back to college career?

Keith: BIRTH!

Kyle: whatever you wanna do interesting whatever you want people to know about you

Tech Coaches: i'm andrew click I came to Auburn in 2001 to the University and actually started off in animal sciences have a bachelors from Animal Sciences with the emphasis in production I got a master's in science education

Keith: so like animal husbandry or...

Tech Coaches: yes yes no

Kyle: that's a family thing

Tech Coaches: it is when I was a veterinarian so I grew up in his clinic thought I want to be a veterinarian and decided real quick that I liked people better than I liked animals

Keith: computers are cleaner

Tech Coaches: later but uh I thought the middle school science class for 10 years in Lee County my whole career started Smith Station for five years when at Wacoochee it was still the junior high and then transferred to Sanford when they build the new high school out at Smiths and last year left classroom to be a technology coach and then this year in September the position of instructional technology specialist so I actually don't have any formal training in technology but something that enjoy I've always appreciated it. I'm Laela Bunn and I think my technical title is instructional coach I began teaching in 2001 after graduating from William Carey College over in Hattiesburg, Mississippi I'm actually graduate from high school right up the road in Alex City Benjamin Russell high school

Keith: so how did you get from Alex City to Mississippi?

Tech Coaches: well and I shopped around to find a school that would pay me to go to school there I grew up in a really poor family so the only way I was gonna like be able to get out and do something with myself was education so and and my parents have taught me as I was growing up that that was gonna be my way out and I was gonna have to get a scholarship and that's what I did I just worked hard and found a school that would like I said pay me to come there so it so I got my degree in English education out there and started teaching 2001 in Georgia actually went everywhere my husband's family was so and I'm taught out there until 2010 and I started homeschooling my kids for a couple years got back into education but as a consultant I went into school systems that were receiving school improvement grants and I was a technology coach in several schools and then that grant that was paying me ran out I went back to the classroom and taught in a neighboring County not too far from here for about two years and then was employed here in Lee County after I got my master's degree and in administration so now I'm an instructional coach and I think someone read my resume really closely and saw all of my experience and instructional technology and said hey thanks right so I got a call and one day actually it's my first day on the job I got a call and asked to come over here and met these wonderful folks and it's been a fairy tale ever since. I'm Patti Henderson and I went a different route than either of these two I didn't finish college until my late 20s in fact when I taught my first two years in fourth grade my son was in the fourth grade and so it was a while going through there so I worked and went worked full-time went school full-time made a route from let's see I taught in Russell County then I changed and taught in Smith station and when I was going to school I would drive from Phenix City to school and at Troy I lived in Auburn and I worked in Lanett so I made that route four days a week to finish my college degree so then when I went back to school for my masters I'll tell the story a lot to some of my teachers some of the teachers who are a little afraid of Technology one of my first classes assignment was we had to write a paper and we had to do a PowerPoint and present it to the class I don't know how to do a PowerPoint I mean I've been to school and I taught but they didn't have professional development for that in the classroom so I was in the classroom I came home from that class that night in tears to my I tell him husband I had to do a PowerPoint I don't know how to do a PowerPoint he said you write the paper I'll do the PowerPoint so then he had to show me how to do the PowerPoint so I try to tell my

teachers there's always a way a place to start and go from there so I had to learn how to do the PowerPoint before I could go any further so I've been in Lee County Schools for 19 years now spent almost all my classroom time in the 6th grade teaching sixth grade mostly math and then I went to back and got certified for library media and was in the library at Sanford for nine years before I applied for this instructional technology coaching position which Andrew was at the same school I was in and I feel like I had to force him into apply he was like I just don't know so we both left the still the same year to take the instructional coach position

Keith: well that was a drain of institutional knowledge

Kyle: I'm gonna go on the record access what I was gonna say is I remember when that all happened I was a technician at the time and so I remember when you guys both left and I said yeah I'm gonna have to be real nice to the principal like she is in trouble but Andrew and Patti were leaving I was like this is gonna be bad for them

Tech Coaches: but they've rebounded

Kyle: okay so you guys get to see classrooms a lot what are some things that you really like seeing when you go in a classroom now I know you taught in a classroom all of you have taught in classrooms but like now in your what you're doing now what do you like seeing when you go into classrooms

Keith: other than children

Kyle: preferably being happy

Tech Coaches: I have the most fun when they let me come in and help I do sometimes miss being in the classroom so I mean it's it's okay it's nice to sit down with the teacher during a planning period and talk about things that they can do in their class but it's more fun for me if they'll actually let me come in and help them do something especially if they're afraid to do it themselves because sometimes it is sometimes all they needs an extra adult in the room to look at what they're doing on the Chromebook to help troubleshoot that you know when other hands are in the air and you don't you can't get to everybody sometimes you just need another person so the most fun I have is when they let me come in and help do something and then when the kids like to do something when they catch on and they start helping their friends do it and the teacher is like oh I don't even have to worry about it because the kids are showing on I had that experience yesterday by the time

Keith: the Google slides at West

Tech Coaches: yes at West and one of the teachers had a class they were doing Alabama history projects in and they had most of their information well we went through and I showed them how to do it and they put all their information in and one of them said so can I put a video in here and I said you can but you got to make sure you watch the video that it's appropriate and you can't have the whole thing you know can't show a 30-minute video if you've got a five-minute presentation so we found one that was on a person he had researched and he copied them I showed him how to copy that link put in his presentation book when I left to go across the hall to check on another class I was over there about 30-45 minutes when I came back the whole class knew how to add a video know something so they were really excited about that I got an email from the teacher today and they're gonna be presenting on Monday so that's always a lot of fun when I catch on because the kids are never afraid to try it and it's

not necessarily the teachers are afraid they're just was not comfortable jumping out and trying it sometimes

Kyle: like you said having an extra adult to handle the technical stuff while they're maintaining their classroom you know

Keith: what was the thing I saw there were converting recipes to feed a hundred or something

Tech Coaches: yes I had a teacher that teaches math and she wanted to do Google slides but she wanted to do something with fractions fourth grade in fractions so the only thing I can figure out how to do or what to do was to do a recipe and convert the recipe so we had to talk about what a yield was because if they don't know I mean if it says servings I kind of know what that means but they didn't really understand what yield was and I found recipes that showed how much it would serve and so I said if we're having a party for a hundred people then how do we take this amount and fix it so that it'll be enough for a hundred people and so we talked through that and they figured out what you could divide or you could multiply or you could I know we talked about what's better to have more than not enough probably need to go a little over a hundred and then they have to take that recipe and convert it to the right fractional portions to get enough food or drink with whatever we're fixing for that so they struggled but they had fun but they struggled with having to do that and then we talked about well if it's something you're cooking are you gonna take this and make four different batches or five different batches are you gonna put it all in one if you put it all in one does that mean you cook it longer you cook it less how does that work so we talked about all those things just to try to make it seem more real but they finally did understand that you have to convert all the parts of the recipe not just one or two so anyway the teacher was pleased and the kids participated so and they learned a little bit about Google slides so that was good too

Keith: I remember when I first heard that you can't double the temperature and have the time to get the and but it was still alarmingly late when I finally realized exactly why that is the case. I'm talking about just a few years ago I learned that. here's another thing why does yield mean the output of a recipe and slow down or don't

Tech Coaches: yield as far as a recipe it usually means like cups or ounces yeah you know like it yield is 12 cups or yield is 2 cups or 16 ounces usually when they big servings it's just servings you know and a serving might be two cookies or something

Keith: yeah anyway it's just weird this has got a different connotation than cooking and in traffic

Tech Coaches: because when I said yield they looked at me like and I could almost see the little yield sign

Kyle: completely off-topic the only way I learned fractions because whenever we would sit there and do them on paper I was like oh this that makes it so one things about dad who taught me it was because he was in construction he pulled out a tape measure like see from here you can actually you know fourths and halves and also it sounds like makes way more sense and all that well this number K because you gotta make it this you have to make it bad always rule it I

Tech Coaches: they could yell out me well the improper fraction okay well so how do we fix that right

Keith: when I was in AG classes at high school with mr. Barrow there we were we were doing there were some quiz we were doing and the answer was like something and a half it's uh put point five and I get it

back and it's marked wrong why is this part wrong because it's a half yeah that's what point five means nobody writes it like that I did and it's correct and I'm enough and I forced I'm gonna make sure that like inches like any yeah okay yeah but I was still still correct technically by any possible standard that was correct that

Tech Coaches: we actually went through the wording so what do we do if this is a recipe conversion and there oh yeah we use that word yeah

Kyle: anyone else what do they like to see in the classroom

Tech Coaches: I guess the whole process I'm such a nerd about curriculum and I like the challenge of being able to go into a classroom and help an Anatomy teacher one day and then maybe a fourth-grade teacher the next day or being a kindergarten classroom with the real little ones helping with iPad and then being in a senior English class I like that kind of that difference there and the challenge of how do we integrate technology in this room in it in comparison to that room

Kyle: like education a la cart like to be a little bit this one

Tech Coaches: yeah challenge it's also like inspiring to you to see how all the different teachers come up with these wonderful ways to get kids exposed to education and exposed to things that they might not see otherwise so being exposed to all that creativity it inspires me to be more creative which you know I think that's kind of ironic that I'm in a position like this that forces creativity I'm not really that creative myself I joked with my family all the time if it's not like in the box or like on the hanger you know the outfit is pre-made like the it all has to be together you know this night teacher that would buy the bulletin board in the box she knows our right to think it up but it's fun for me too to go into a classroom and and when the teacher wants to sit down and look at a lesson plan and say how can we you know what's the point here how can we integrate some technology you know that helps my kids move to the next level and I don't know just like I'm a nerd so I really enjoy that so it's cool a lot of fun especially when they when they plan it so that you can be there right and sometimes I find that you were talking about when they let you come in and help but I know there are some teachers that actually like to take the back seat and just let you teach the lesson so they can see how you do it and and how you would integrate the technology and sometimes I felt for them you know where they can just kind of sit side by side with their kids and learn along with that along with the kid the technology or the peace that you're trying to help them learn and so that's been that's been I think probably probably the most helpful for some of the teachers that I've worked with it's just being able to be a student in mine when I when I'm able to do that I try to stay with the teacher two periods three periods so I might do it the first time and then we kind of do it together the second time and then the third time I take the back seat and just jump in there they need something because I think it makes them feel more comfortable just knowing that if you know Google doesn't come up what do I do well Mrs. Henderson's here even if that doesn't actually happen it makes them feel better so

Kyle: it sounds like a cool opportunity to for them to have it modeled for them and so they can see oh well you know she did this and they engaged in this other way that's something that I might need to work on and I you know how rarely when you guys were in the classroom and let me teach this thing for you like

Tech Coaches: yeah yeah it's so gratifying to you that when you're in that situation where you're teaching the lesson and the teacher starts to feel so comfortable with the material and with the technology piece that that individual gets up and starts actually leading it and so that's that's gratifying to me to be able to sit back and watch this you know teacher that may have been really shy about approaching a piece of technology and use it in the classroom but now all of a sudden they're engrossed in it and telling the kids how to use it and give it with ways that they could use it in other lessons so that's that's a lot of fun

Kyle: Andrew?

Tech Coaches: I agree all that I think it's fun working with kids and that's what I love this job as you get to go in and you're not kids don't mess with them and help them but probably my my favorite thing is when I walk by a classroom where I have work previously and I see the teacher using something and they don't know I'm there right and they they're using that tool and they're they're comfortable enough with it because I know I'm coming right because they think they're doing because it makes their life easier yeah and that's that's gratifying to me to know that okay I made that teachers job easier or I help them teach that concept or gave them a tool to use in their classroom that helps them as a teacher the biggest compliment I got and the teacher didn't intend I'm sure they didn't tell me this in with the intention of being a compliment but two teachers from different schools I had worked with one of them in her classroom a little bit not a lot and we did some things and she went to dinner with the teacher at another school and talked about it and so the teacher of the second school asked me can I come and do can you come and show me how to do this and if and I'm not oh that's pretty cold so that's that was actually a pretty big compliment I thought and so the second teacher loved it and they've gotten back together and talked about it since then

Keith: so then you see a high rate of carryover from year to year you know you can teach a teacher something this year and next year you'll go back in there and they're still using the whatever that you taught them

Tech Coaches: sometimes we do sometimes I think if they use it for one thing they don't they're planning what their lesson is going to be and they don't think well how can I use that same thing in this next lesson sometimes they don't make that jump but if you let go you know you could then they're you know what's your amount of it that's out there and that could use it in that way they know oh yeah we did that last year but we do see a lot of a lot of them integrating the same things that they did before so that's always nice too

Kyle: so we've talked around some of this but so a lot of what you guys do is help use technology in the classroom to make you know the teachers lives better and make kids understand things better so can we talk about some of the tools showing you just regularly what are some things I felt

Tech Coaches: sure Google Andrew drinks the Google kool-aid I love the way all the Google stuff integrates together so nicely I mean I have a Chromebook that I carry all the time Android phone and across all devices is accessible and editable and and it just makes life easier if you use it all those things when asked for access is going now all things Google out that day love and then there they're constantly changing their tools and listening to take your feedback and improving their tools I would like that use it a good bit and that classroom is one of the tools that they used to integrate with others I feel that's what I love about it if you already in the Google and ecosystem collapse classrooms is easier to use

these classroom if you don't using it at Google products but why would you but if you already use everything else classrooms really really useful and the biggest thing the kids see especially the elementary kids when when you're showing them Google slides and they're like well I save it I gotta save it no guess what you don't have to say no and once you shared it with your teacher they were getting your most up-to-date work you don't have to send it again and so it's almost like hard for them to believe that that's true but they're really excited when they find out they're not going to lose their work but it automatically saves no and if I can go in and tell a teacher look at this Google extension that will keep you well in school when your teacher took your writing and they wrote in it in red and they made notes if I can show a teacher that their student can submit their work in Google Docs they can pull up an extension that will let them make two clicks to make all those comments then it saved them tired and I don't have to worry about losing their jump drive or losing their work or losing their printed papers if it'll second time then their hand you got them so that's good if we can find those things that help the teacher then they're gonna be more susceptible or more more willing to try stuff

Keith: so I mean I've heard of Google classroom obviously but I'd haven't I haven't played with it at all so what is the deal with Google classroom

Tech Coaches: Google classroom is awesome it's a great way to keep kids organized as far as being able to communicate with them and what's going on in class it's just it's like a digital interface of what's going on in your classroom so you've got a it works a little bit like Facebook where you can make posts and announcements and you can also create assignments that if you want to live in the digital world and you want to teach in the digital world you can so you can create assignments there you can even grade those assignments in the Google classroom you can give feedback as descriptive as you want it to be or as gentle as you want it to be and then you can actually go back and forth with your students in that Google classroom so if you're if your student wants to comment back to you on your comment you know to to kind of continue that learning process that's what's so cool about it and then because everything is so seamless and it works together so well you could just as easily go on to that Google document and leave an audio note for the student to hear what your feedback is on there their project so I think that's one of the one of the best things about it is that it just it just increases that that connection between teacher and student and allows that that education to continue moving forward so there's there's always an opportunity to keep learning from mistakes or to learn from what I did great so I think it's a great communication piece for for teachers and students but then also there's there's a parent aspect too because the parent can constantly be involved in what's going on with their students that you can spot errors through the classroom right well but can they get progress reports yeah so they only see their child's work right but they can elect to get weekly progress reports or monthly progress reports or daily progress reports if you're really have them heavily involved right so they can know what their child is doing or what's missing so the progress report that's crumpled up in the back of in the bottom of the backpack is not an issue anymore if you're using Google classroom say

Kyle: well a lot of cool things I like about it is that it does some of the most good for learning outside of the four walls of the school like you know there's another device they can go home and they can oh hey this is where this is and you sort of expand that interaction like you said with the teachers or whatever they're gonna go home with very papers they can grade papers and students can get we wrapped it but okay well just sign it right now and do something to do with it

Tech Coaches: and say if you have students they're out for some for an extended period of time right there worked right there they can work on it at their home or if they're out of town or whatever they'll be able to access their assignments and not get behind which is nice for the both of them student and the teacher right yeah you know it works so well with other extensions as well like with Goobric which is a online rubric creator so you can actually have the the teachers ability to have that rubric on document so teachers or so students can see what the teacher is looking for it in particular assignment so if they lost that sheet of paper you know they've got the assignment right there in Google classroom and they've got how the teacher is going to gonna grade it and they can see exactly what what their grade could be right you know if they follow it along with the assignment so I love Google classroom it's not nothing it's a good prep for college too because most colleges are gonna have some kind of learning management system even if they're traditional and you have to go to class and you have to take notes a lot of them will upload their PowerPoint or their notes or something on their LMS whatever that is and if the students are already accustomed to working in that environment then it's an easy switch over to whatever the college is using

Keith: although this does sound the death knell for the old excuse of the dog ate my homework

Kyle: yeah, they'll have to eat your whole Chromebook at this point

Tech Coaches: when they used to tell me that their dog ate their library book or something that's like bring me the book I want to see it you still have to pay for it but I want to see it

Kyle: I would generally have my dogs eat my homework one one one day I'd left my folder out there and they've torn it up and strung across the room like better believe it's such a common excuse like I cannot even say that I'll just have to say I didn't do it and do it

Tech Coaches: yeah you told me that I wrote in last yeah I mean I had a library book that I've shared with the kids every year there's a shoot up my dog mess itself your dog cheese at the book and it looks like this I'm gonna say you got to pay for it we're bringing the book I want to see it

Keith: Other than drinking the Google kool-aid what other

Tech Coaches: Laela loves some flipgrid. yes that's what flipper it is so flipgrid is probably my one of my favorites they're gonna have like three but it sort of grates probably at the top it is a basically an online tool that allows students to record their thoughts and their thinking and and their reactions to things and it posts so that other students can see their videos and then they can respond to each other's videos or it can be it can be privately done as well so those videos can stay between the student and the teacher if the teacher would like for it to be that way but it just it's a way for kids to hear each other's thoughts and you know flipgrid talks about you know in some of their promotional materials that it allows that kid that's in the back of the room who doesn't really talk a lot or feel shy about expressing themselves in public too it allows that child to finally have a voice so it really is about increasing the student's ability to express their opinions and talk to each other about about not only their learning but their lives so flipgrid really pushes this idea of creating a culture in a classroom of cooperation and kindness and and and learning too but really just being human together and so you know they have a really cool piece and flipgrid called inspire where you can actually go just get fun things to talk about like what's your favorite flavor of ice cream and and things that are super heavy like you know what at what

from history do you think you need to our particular generation needs to learn in order to move forward and make a better world you know so there's some really cool light-hearted things some heavy things that I love flipgrid I think it's a great way for teachers to be able to talk to their students and students to be able to talk to each other and kind of a non-threatening environment that's cool - I've seen - two really cool examples that we used to flip there just on example one was a a first first grader or a kindergarten class actually at my kids school the teacher sang on a flip read before school started and asked all the kids to introduce themselves ask them some introductory questions and so all the kids could see their classmates before school started and just love that promise immersion doing that with our group of early cohort of 19 members this year - how to introduce themselves to each other another one I had a science teacher who was using clear for the first time and she said she posed a question to the kids and she said she had never seen the kids write so much in preparation for what they were going to say because they realized oh everybody's gonna see my response to this question it's not just me and the teacher that's gonna see it I want to turn it into piece of paper that nobody else is ever gonna say everyone's gonna hear this and so they said and worked and worked and worked on ones really know what they're gonna say you should just you know say that count that's not what I expected to see right through me yeah

Keith: what's this thing with the pear that I keep seeing on

Tech Coaches: oh the pear deck pear deck is pretty cool so it's I would say it's probably similar it's an ear pod in some ways but it's where it's a slide sharing kind of program we can get in there and create a presentation and then share it to your students but I think that the most fun that I've had with pear decks so far is their vocabulary Factory you can get in there and create an online game and the kids create it together they create the words and the definitions and they're like their concept picture they draw it out together and they decide together as a class what definitions what flashcards what pictures they're going to keep and then as the class they play the game together so it kind of it incorporates that idea of community and cooperation and then also competition because at the very end when they're playing the game they're in teams and their trying is so big each other right so it's from beginning to end it's a great activity in them we've taught it here at the district office and one thing we've had several teachers go back and use in their classrooms with some success yeah pear decks

Keith: I just see the picture of you holding up the little pear

Tech Coaches: we do like - you see saw with the little kids especially because it's easy for them and it has a parent component as well so like the beginning of the year you sign up to have your put your students and your seesaw class and then each student will have a different QR code for their parent so their parent will sign up with their QR code or with the link if the teacher sends a link and then when the student reads aloud and it's recorded the teacher can share that with the parent and the parent can respond verbally or they can send them up emoji or something during the day so so they know that their parents saw it and the parent you know a lot of times the kids are excited about that but a lot of times the parents are more excited so that works out well and now six I'll let you say those things to the next year so technically we can have a portfolio by the time they move but that can draw a picture and talk about their picture they can type out their responses to things so it's endless really that can make pictures of things and explain them there are a lot of things you can do on seesaw really easy for the small kids / - because the teacher can multiply themselves and put their instructions in seesas verbally for those kindergartners that aren't reading yet and so they can have like a station they go through the

teacher has they'll just scan a QR code and the teacher be given them their instructions verbally on what they're supposed to do so that's really that works really well for the small kids

Kyle: those are good

Keith: not all districts are blessed to have wonderful people such as yourselves so what are some good places that teachers and those types of districts can keep abreast of any emerging technologies and strategies to use those technologies in their classrooms

Tech Coaches: we actually talked about this at lunch yes Twitter is a fabulous place for them to follow tech people don't throw things out they'll give tips they'll say what we just found out goo.gl is gonna be discontinued we found that on Twitter if they have a few people that can follow on Twitter they'll learn all kind of things and they didn't have to be everybody but if they were we'll leave them to these peoples blogs we're also out there we get to go to their specific blog page and follow them but yeah

Kyle: so if we had a couple of people that we could recommend people follow

Tech Coaches: well we talked about a couple Lesley Fisher would be one oh yeah Alice Keeler is great for Google thanks man I love both of them are very having them into into Google products and just practical ways to use them in the classroom right which I appreciate not a stiff for apps say yeah yes it's what is the point of using those technology is it making your job easier as engaging is an excellent helping teach concepts and so they do really know that yeah and I love our prints those are really good about tweeting stuff so I'm hoping we can get them to buy into that sometimes the hardest part is trying to think of what to say so I always tell my teachers look if you tweet it then your principal can retweet it they know they don't have to worry about what to say then you know so you go ahead and tweet it and let them retweet it so

Kyle: y'all need professional development okay good to go -

Tech Coaches: yes we went to GAETC last year which is in Georgia educational technology conference in Atlanta as well nice because it's in in The Fault in October AETC your outlet analysis in Birmingham Oh a teleconference for teachers I'm actually to go to ISTE this year oh there's only one I've been to up until this point I'm it consistently to the AETC and Birmingham and its really good there are some great presenters up there seeing a lot of good ideas and network with people and find some tech folks to follow I tell you what though Twitter is the place to go as far as finding just like day-to-day stuff because Joshua dad really doesn't and you get notifications every day if somebody and post something that's cool I've actually been in the last couple weeks been listening to podcasts there's Google teacher tribe podcasts and Matt Miller case bill host and so it's great I mean there's something more more than this one there's there's so many out there now that if you have a podcast program that you use right you can whatever topic you want but as far as tech for education there's so many out there now too that are great I have little kids yeah and so I can't sit down and read great a long time so I love that concept as I can listen to a long dragon I had listened to it lawn mowing the yard yeah yeah listen to it while I'm working my shop or something like that but it ought to stop right other things they do it while I'm cleaning the house right she loves me after that so

Keith: what we've learned is that or what I've seen is that we're moving away from this industrial learning environment of the rows of desks which frankly I enjoyed growing up I'm kind of glad that I didn't I'm that I'm not coming up now because any time a teacher ever brought up group work

Kyle: group work is always bad for the kids you have to do everyone else's group work

Tech Coaches: yeah however in Google you can do it you can be the revision history then you really did the work well and that's a common

Keith: you didn't have that available it way exactly so is there is there any room for the old-style Industrial learning environment

Tech Coaches: that would say not for extended periods of time but I think it's because the kids are different they're used to immediate answers if they want to know something they google it they don't have to sit and listen to get all that information they can just cut to the chase and find the answer and move on and so that's what they're accustomed to so it's difficult to hold their attention if you're just gonna stand up there and talk and normally if you can't hold their attention then they don't behave well which makes your classroom not enjoyable so you have to just to keep them engaged

Keith: so the teachers that are trying to make that transition because there are some there are some holdouts how do they begin that process of moving from

Tech Coaches: I think there'll always be a little bit I mean they'll they'll still have to do some whole group and they'll still have to do some explanations but there won't be a stand up there top for an hour

Kyle: or sometimes they can transition from one to the other

Tech Coaches: I would probably think one of the easiest things to do or easiest steps to take being that I'm probably in that generation you're talking about is a long generation once they've done their overall then say break the kids into groups and let them teach certain sections so they have to read about it they have to talk about it they have to decide what their group what the most important things about that section are and then they teach that section and so that keeps all of them engaged and they're responsible for what everybody else is receiving so it's more of a facilitator than just lecture so the kids are gonna be more engaged in their particular area and they're gonna watch and see how their friends do and then some of them are gonna want to do better than their friends group so they want to go back and juice it up a little ride that might be one of the easiest steps to take I think another easy step would be you know especially for somebody who's not really sure where just where to even begin is to you know look around their building and notice someone else who's teaching in that way and ask to go watch a class period you know go meet with under on their playing period you know and you know say hey what's your thought process when you when you first think about teaching a lesson this way how do you go about coming up with your tasks and you know what rubrics are you can't really sit down and take it apart with that teacher you know that's what we do what are you doing at this lecture management that's always when we're trying to help them integrate technologies we just take it apart piece by piece and help them you know see what really goes into it and so I think that that would be a good step for anybody just want to launch out in that direction especially if you don't know where to start yeah because nobody's gonna be happy jumping jumping off the bridge it goes in one all the way to the end in one day we're not gonna baby up centers you know baby stuff yeah you know one of the things that we instructed looking at using Google slides to help facilitate that process where you know maybe we're all working on the same project but we each have a different page and so you're you're gonna do this part and I'm going to work on this page and page one and the Google side and you're gonna do page two in the Google side and so maybe it's something as simple as that you know where

we're getting the kids away from just sit and listen to a lecture where they're actually putting together a presentation together in the classroom and I'm just there to kind of help so it's just I don't know it's just a different way to truly look at teaching and learning and I think being patient you know being realizing that you're not gonna get all right on the on the first try and that's okay be patient with yourself and forgiving of your unit forgiving yourself for your own failures in those areas and lot of times we're not really very forgiving of ourselves you know you know and that's I think that's why some of us are hesitant to try new technologies are trying to teaching strategies we don't want to fail where we're the hundred and ten percent on the A+ teacher I was a plus student you know I don't want to fail so but yeah that's what I would do just you know or a boss I'm gonna do is just look around see who's doing it and go talk to a woman and talk to their principal and see if they can do it the traditional method of just standing and delivering you can easily change that by with technology like flipgrid or nearpod where you can give every kid an answer or an opportunity to respond immediately whereas you normally you might ask a question during a lecture and you didn't have time to let every kid answer right you visited on time to do that in a class period but now you do if they're all responding at the same time you can look at that later or you can see their responses immediately and I'm oleanders there's the rock then a poll on the screen and know okay I need to actually explain this again okay now they've got it and move on and so that's that's where change is teaching us is your media feedbacks you can get and just very small ways and not change the rest of your lesson you don't have to recreate the lesson but my teaching more efficient a more individualized to so you can see okay this kid's got it this one does not have it yeah well a lot of times I think we we can't we hear about so many different things and we try to share everything because we're excited about them all and I think sometimes the teachers think that we expect them to use all of these things when really all we're doing is giving them options and things to try um just totally work for you but not I mean you may be teaching the same thing as the person across the hall from you and one might work for you but not work for them so it's not that we expect them to try all of them we just want to give them a sampling maybe of what's out there so maybe they can figure out one to try

Keith: how do you help teachers fight you know get over that hump of oh there's just too much there's too much trying to learn so I'm going to do any of it

Tech Coaches: I can usually that if they come back to me with that I'll usually say tell me about a lesson you're going to use one day next week and so if they can tell me about that lesson then I'll say well it sounds like you need something like and this will do this this and this and if that's not what they're looking for then we look for something else when I'm gonna go in the classroom some I cuz I usually send the emails out and say I'm gonna be on your campus this day if I can come in and help you do something if they'll respond and tell me I'm gonna be doing this on this day what can we do then usually I can give them some options you know to reactions take a look at these there's a video about it tell me which one you want to try and so then I'll go in prepare to teach with them the lesson that they already had and use that particular tool whichever one it was they thought they wanted to try that time but usually you just you have to make sure you have a backup in case that one doesn't work like they wanted to

Keith: there's one teacher that I see a lot mentioned on Twitter and it just and I'm sure that she's not the only one but seems like I'm the freshman center mass Stonebreaker oh yeah she seems like she's doing something different with her kids all the time yeah I mean it seems like it'd be fun being in her class

Tech Coaches: oh yeah I didn't have a good time in there and they learn a lot tradition history yes and she's got some interesting seating in there so they move around the room and they reenact some things and they make projects and she's written some grants and has some VR headsets and so

Keith: I saw that last week out of the kids with the garnet so the freshman Center is always tweeting pretty regularly and they and it's they're obvious they're almost always tweeting something that her guests yes I like the different stuff

Kyle: so with a recent sparked train there are some awesome things you guys did with a breakout room can you tell me about that

Tech Coaches: turn another breakout render view the breakout activity was a lot of everybody it was just an opportunity for them to see a lesson present in a different way so it was a series of challenges that the teachers received and so it kind of comes from that concept of the breakout room its breakout edu but it's the the idea of having to solve mysteries in order to get a kid to get to the next step so and the breakout edu it's the same kind of concept you have a mystery that you have to solve in order to get the key to the lock and then once you open that lock there's another mystery that you have two simple keys and handle combination locks yes yes a little bit more of this next thing I'm learning but the idea though is that you take your content that you're studying right and make that question is this problems they have to solve depends on their group I mean their group has their on those answers to catch a competition so it's automatically better yeah and the teachers loved it so much they really a lot of schools have really they bought their kids and they've been checking them out they've been using them that's all West I did was I saw I like to say all the teachers they were going through that PD yes funny to see you expect it you know in the in the classroom to see students you know jumping over desks so you're trying to get here but you know to see teachers take off a dead run

Kyle: okay we're some other awesome things you guys have got to be a part of since y'all are taking on this role

Tech Coaches: I'd love this job which is I get to see so many different teachers and they don't all do it the same they don't all teach the same but some of them do so many things well and really don't go to classroom around don't see something like that's a great idea and the kids are loving school and loving learning because of what they're doing in the classroom is so fun for me and you know I love seeing that thing about my kids yeah I think that I think this gives this teachers got a going on you know well I'm like I want you as my kids teacher have an obsession with organizations yeah insulation will set you free that's right so I mean when I go in the classroom and I see some of the organizational tools these teachers use it's like oh why didn't I think of that you know when it drove me crazy I put my kids in groups I had pull their desk together and I always when I you know I could never keep them straight and then I go in one room and like that I'm tied together at classroom and thinking you know if you allow your students to use their phones well you want to be using at the appropriate time so I'm going one classroom and they have those zip like pencil zippered a zip tie at the start of a desk in their phone goes in there when they come in and when they leave they get their phone and they go out and I'm like why why did not think of that so we do they have some great ideas and um and they don't mind sharing I mean I think they're accustomed to what they've done in their room and they don't realize it's great until somebody asked about it and think everybody's doing it so

Kyle: unique opportunity to get out of the silos that you're in yeah

Tech Coaches: really so we see a lot of cool things and share and so then I'm fortunate enough to be able to say to a teacher let me tell you what I have some what somebody else's class when they pull out their headphones and they're all wadded up together let me tell you what I saw in tonight's class so it's a good way to share things and and hopefully that's the way they look at it is they're just there to help on my own we can yeah well I think probably one of my favorite parts of this job is being able to not just go into classrooms but also have the opportunity to come and meet with other technology coaches because sometimes coming in out of classrooms and doing the things that I do sometimes it can just get real easy to lose focus right and and so being able to come and meet with other technology coach just kind of gives me the chance to refocus and get in and dig in with some of the technology tools that I want to be able to explore get better at so then I can go back to the schools and help teachers in their classrooms with their students so that's probably one of the things that I appreciate the most about about what Lee County allows me to do is being able to come and meet with other colleagues who do what I do and so I think that's probably one of the most valuable my job is getting that kind of embedded PD there are people who do what I do well and it's helpful if I can't figure out something than your answer we usually have oh yeah well did you try this or did you try that so that's always helpful because it's almost like sometimes you just run into a brick wall you don't know what else to try but somebody else in it outside but in a similar situation can come up with an idea you know and that's a lot of fun too because you know that you you kind of get used to it like we were talking about earlier you get in a rut and you kind of get used to some some of the same things and so coming together allows us to go oh well did you see this on Twitter this week somebody tweeted this oh I didn't get a chance to look at that well let's look at that together and we've worked through it and learn how to use it and you know click always have something from Google so some extension there's always something that I may have overlooked or exactly there was something today that even sent out so it was a shortcut key board short of her Windows

Keith: tell me about the spark innovation award and what teachers can do for next year to get in on that gravy train

Tech Coaches: the spark innovation award was award that they offered last year for the first time and actually this year offering an beside offer again it was an award for a secondary elementary teacher to apply for where they just we asked them to just put on a showcase of what it was they're doing in their classroom to innovatively use technology to improve teaching and learning in their classroom and really that was the criteria was just show us yeah show us what you do and that we asked them to write an essay just one page but one of them - that could use hyperlinks and links to photos or videos to train them on that asked them to include some video of them teaching their kids using technology and to display how they're using them in the classroom we see this all the time in the classroom that we toss to try to share that with the leadership here in Lee County and so they can see that it was having two different schools the fair schools and and it's it's a it's it's really cool for us to see and we wanted to be able to to share that and recognize those people for mom and to let those teachers know hey we appreciate what you're doing and the price wasn't for that was recognition but also with the opportunity to for the for the system to pay for a trip to the technology conference educational technology conference I have the choice of either going to the ATC conference this summer in Birmingham or SD in Chicago or going to the Georgia educational technology conference based on what their schedule or preference so we actually we we just selected those teachers so couple weeks ago and that makes it like they are they well they they have exit on one of the day they may change that but it's

yes they have and we offer different conferences because when I'm had a conflict with with the one with Chicago couldn't go to it so we had some other options for awesome but it was really good we actually we put it out there earlier this year so they have more time last year it was Russian which sits a little woman I mean trying to think about okay I gotta organize my it because it's not just talking about what you what you do you have to show evidence in the head so in answer to your question they're gonna try to do that next year if it's offered next year then the thing to do would be make videos make pictures so that when they get ready to do the application to put in their links and their videos they can have several things to choose from document it for the purpose of this but document to put it out there and show them what you're doing there are so many teachers that anything special and that's everybody's got something that they do well you know whether want to share turn-on they know they do it well right and so document that chair with your parents communicate that with your your parents or your students with your administration with your with your coworkers take pictures of it and hanging up in the hallway if nothing else but document that to put out there for people to see what's going on in your classroom and take pride in what your students are doing and what you're doing and as a professional as a teacher and as a mentor these kids and it says and that's that's a lot of what these teachers are doing there they're bragging on their kids and what they're doing when they are themselves and they don't realize they're writing on themselves but they're they're doing some really neat things so it was a great opportunity to showcase them

Kyle: don't be afraid to tell your own story

Tech Coaches: what teachers could do to get ready for next year you know this doesn't have to be an advanced technology user this is just a teacher who's using technology to continue the teaching and learning process so if you're if you're a new user of technologies you can call on your technology coach whoever the technology coach is at your school and start working with us so that we can you

know introduce you to some new technologies and you find the thing that you like so that you can get get more adept at using it and you know I found when I was in the classroom that I learned more from my students sometimes they would bring me emerging technologies and so then we would learn through that together so you know contact your technology coaches and also listen to what you know listen to your students and see what quick technologies they know are out there and what maybe my kid can implement in the classroom

Kyle: well, I think that's about it we really appreciate y'all's time

Keith: y'all continue to be awesome

Kyle: anything else you want to say

Tech Coaches: yeah make sure you edit heavily

Kyle: why?

Keith: Patti, you were the most nervous and I think you still wound up talking the most

Tech Coaches: yes that's some of that legends I wanted to get I know right I want to hear more a little Patti on the farm stories personally we've got one we'll do a podcast

Ukulele Music