

As a teacher I am committed to learning and teaching for a purpose. My mission is to provide a balanced computer literacy program. A variety of software application programs used at Core Knowledge include but are not limited to: Ultra Key, Mavis Beacon, Type to Learn 3, Microsoft Word, Excel and Power Point, Kidspiration, Inspiration, online electronic media sources, Storybook Weaver, Kid Pix, iMovie, iPhoto, and Garage Band. Going beyond software applications, I teach computer ethics and safety, vocabulary, and Internet research.

My program also strives to get students to think at a higher order of thinking. Each age group will use a variety of software applications to help explain or show their reasoning. The younger students use Kidspiration. Sixth grade through eighth grades use Inspiration and will learn how to use Intel's thinking tools. Students are encouraged to look critically at the selected websites and to analyze their validity. I strive to have students become their own problem solvers when computer glitches arise.

Computer literacy is taught to students from grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. The elementary grades gather in the technology lab once a week whereas middle school students are in the computer lab every other day. Due to the limited class time for elementary students, the majority of the computer time is spent building keyboarding and word processing skills. When possible, Core Knowledge curriculum is integrated with word processing, editing, and formatting tasks. Guided web investigation of topics related to classroom learning is introduced. For the older students, there is more time to practice keyboarding and word processing skills and to create project based activities. The research process, computer ethics, validity of website and citing resources is greatly emphasized in the middle school grades.

Every attempt is made at Parker Core Knowledge Charter School to provide a safe and meaningful learning environment in the classroom. Filters to keep your child safe are updated regularly. However, it is important to also teach computer ethics and safety relating to the usage of the Internet. Throughout the course of the school year, students are instructed on computer safety. It also important that parents to have the same knowledge. I plan on hosting at least two parent workshops concerning this matter. These dates will be announced and published in the school newspaper, school letter, and school calendar.

Susie Stewart  
Technology Teacher  
Core Knowledge Charter School