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How would you use a \$2,000 grant to purchase technology for your classroom?

I have incredibly talented and tech savvy students who are eager to conquer the computer programming and gaming world. In my class, we do something called a 20-Time Project, where students spend 20% of their class time working on a STEM related project of their choosing. Several groups of these students are beyond block-based 2D computer programming and are yearning to move into more complex programming and 3D graphic designs using Unity Game Engine. Two groups have also expressed heavy interest in developing 3D scenes for virtual reality using Blender. The desktops they're currently working on are not equipped to handle the types of big dreams projects my students are working on. If we had \$2000 to spend on technology we would invest in two more powerful laptops and an HTC Vive virtual reality head set.



Why is technology important for you and your students?

Technology is important for me and my students because it is the bridge from our classroom to the outside world. There is nothing more exciting than knowing that, with the right technology, there is no longer a boundary separating what my students learn in the classroom and what is happening in the real world. Imagine learning about plate

tectonics, then being able to put on a virtual reality headset and visit the Andes Mountain Range or the Great Rift Valley. Imagine being able to not just play a video game that you bought online, but to design it from start to finish, graphics and all, then step into and play your very own 3D game in virtual reality. That's why technology is important for me and my students, it's an incredible bridge to experiences that were once unthinkable.

What is special or unique about your classroom and students?

My students are unique because they don't settle and they don't take no. They don't quit, and they don't let me eat lunch alone, because they always want to be working and improving. My students are unique because they are capable of doing things no one would believe is possible if we just give them the resources they need and get out of their way.

Photos from their classroom

