

STEM Spotlight/Bits & Bytes – January 23, 2020

Did you know that every student at SHS has an Office365 account? We use these accounts for school organization, and students begin to interact with their accounts beginning in 2nd grade. How do we use Office365 programs? How do we build on skills age-appropriately over time? Over the next few weeks, we will be sharing ways that various programs are used in different grade levels and classes- Outlook, OneNote, Teams, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Stream are all used in interesting ways throughout our school day!

Bits & Bytes:

We are excited to be using a new online reading program called Newsela! Newsela.com has a wealth of non-fiction articles. But what makes it so special?

1. Students can choose articles that interest them, so they gain authentic non-fiction reading experiences!
2. New articles are added daily about a wide variety of topics.
3. Students can set the lexile (reading) level of the text, so that it is immediately written at a level that is just right for them (not too easy, and not too challenging).
4. Students can take short quizzes after reading each article to practice specific reading skills. Teachers get real-time feedback on these specific skills for each student!

Unlike fiction, whose stories often easily suck children in, nonfiction is often harder for students to connect with. We look forward to seeing how Newsela supports our students' reading success!

Connect: Try logging into Newsela from your child's Clever account! Find an article that interests you and read it together!

Questions? Comments? Please contact [Deanna Simons](#).