Technology

Meet the Teacher

My name is Mr. Hartman and I joined St. Peter's in the summer of 2015 as the new technology teacher. I have a BS degree in Computer Science from Penn State. I also hold various Microsoft certifications. Previously I worked in the charter school system in Washington, DC. I also worked for the Arch-Diocese of Washington, tasked with implementing a new student information system at over 60 elementary schools in the diocese. My career has focused on software development.

My goal is to help our students become more proficient with technology so they are better equipped to advance into high school. I believe in an atmosphere where students enjoy their time with me and learn about technology in a collaborative environment..

Core Curriculum

Technology is offered to all students PK thru 8th grade. While PK and Kindergarten work on fundamentals such as using the mouse and keyboard, 1st and 2nd grades are working on their keyboarding skills. 3rd grade and up study topics including Microsoft Word , PowerPoint, Publisher and Excel. 5th grade students are being exposed to Chromebooks in class, as well as the basic uses of Google Drive. All middle school students are equipped with Chromebooks. Middle school students will also have lessons in Google G Suite products (Docs, Sheets, Slides and Drive). Students from 3rd grade and up all have a St Peters email address. Elementary students will use their email to save their work to the 'cloud' while middle school students will use it for accessing their virtual classrooms and classroom e-books. All classes are hands-on in our computer lab. All students, PK-8, are also taught about internet safety and how, while the internet is a great learning resource, we all must be cautious and aware of the dangers on the world wide web. St Peters employs a tool called Bark to help monitor students Chromebook usage. All middle school parents should have also received an email allowing them to use a parent portal for Bark. If you haven't, please contact the school and we will get you setup.

Electives

Computer Coding is fast becoming a must-have for students today. St. Peters is proud to offer elective courses for grades 6 through 8 that are coding based. Grade 6 elective is based upon Scratch, developed by MIT. Scratch is a graphical programming language which teaches students to think like a coder. Students create games based upon Super Mario and Star Wars.
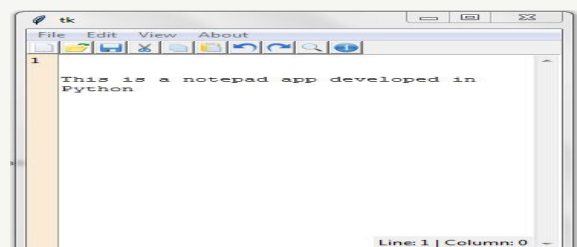
The 7th grade elective is Python. Python is a very popular programming language, used by notable companies such as Google, NASA, IBM and many, many others.

And the 8th grade this year is working with advanced python. Students choosing this elective will create a functioning alternative to notepad. Their app will save their data, have a find and replace capability, undo, redo, cut, copy and paste functions.

The app will also encrypt the text so no one will be able to read the data without the student's unique app.

Later in the year, students will learn how to program an app on Amazon Alexa, the speech enabled assistant.

We also have an after school workshop on Cyber Security concepts beginning in January for 8th grade students.