



QUICK Connection

Missouri School for the Blind

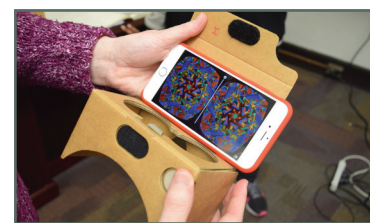
Classroom Spotlight: VR at MSB

MSB students have the chance to explore the Earth and beyond thanks to technology teacher Allison Dotter and Cardboard, a virtual reality (VR) platform developed by Google and designed for use with a head mount and a smartphone. Ms. Dotter was introduced to Cardboard at the 2016 FLAM/KSWLA (Foreign Language Association of Missouri and Kansas World Language Association) Joint Conference, and immediately began coming up with ideas for implementing the VR platform into her classroom lessons.

Cardboard uses compatible smartphone applications to tour historic cities like Paris and Versailles, explore ancient Aztec and Mayan ruins, interact with nature, fly to space, and even ride virtual roller coasters. Ms. Dotter uses Cardboard in her assistive technology and computer classes as an educational tool, but also encourages her students to use the platform for fun. One student, Dionna, enjoys Cardboard so much that she uses it nearly every day and got a head mount of her own to continue exploring VR at home.

While Ms. Dotter likes using Cardboard in her classes, she hopes to someday move beyond the simple VR system to Google Expeditions, which would allow her to lead entire classes on interactive VR field trips. Until that happens, though, the students and staff at MSB are content to independently explore the world and more through VR.

If you are interested in learning about Cardboard and other Google VR platforms, visit tivr.google.com for more information.



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MSB SUPPORTS



Missouri Learning Standards

Missouri Jr. Beta Convention

The Missouri Jr. Beta Convention took place December 8-9, 2016 at Black River Coliseum, in Poplar Bluff Mo. The MSB Jr. Beta team consisting of Jalan Leach, Noelle Dobbs, Anastasia Gray, Nicole Motley and Khylie Longmire, along with advisors Shaugh Doyel and Nancy Arnold and Sr. Beta team member chaperones Tiondra Pollard, Nicole Cox, and Jessica Johnson, attended. MSB won 1st place in T-shirt Division II for their originally-designed t-shirt and 3rd Place in the Group Talent Division II with their rendition of "It's a Hard Knock Life," from the musical play *Annie*. Anastasia Gray won 3rd Place in Language Arts Division I for her score on a 50 question test.



Several students from the ungraded elementary and high school classes visited Bob Kramer Marionettes in St. Louis on Wednesday, January 11th. The students were treated to a private marionette show and afterwards, had the chance to speak with marionettists, the puppeteers who control marionettes, and interact with the marionettes. To learn more about Bob Kramer's Marionettes, visit kramersmarionettes.com



CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

On Thursday, December 22nd, MSB celebrated our annual Christmas Extravaganza with staff, students, family, community members and special guests from the West St. Louis County Lions Club, First Capitol Lions Club, Maplewood Lions Club, and United Workers for the Blind. Lions club and UWB members brought many gifts to donate to MSB students, and our students performed a wonderful Christmas program for our guests and families. Thank you to everyone who helped make the holidays the most wonderful time of the year!



Elks Christmas Party

On Monday, December 19th, members of the Elks Club visited MSB with dinner and presents for our residential students. In turn, the Elks were treated to a Christmas pageant by the MSB students before everyone got to eat and visit with Santa Clause.



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**MSB CALENDAR OF EVENTS****January**

18	Wrestling/Cheer @ IN
19	Q2/S1 Ends
24	10 a.m. Q2/S1 Awards Ceremony 10:30 Quiz Bowl Finals
27-28	Wrestling/Cheer @ KY - Conference Meet

February

15	Braille Challenge @ MSB
17	No School
20	President's Day - No School
20	MAP-A Testing window opens

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