Elementary Techsperts Present at CECA/CASL Conference via Video Chat

Joseph Gionfriddo and Noah Borrup, 4th graders at Paterson Elementary in Newington, use Google Hangouts to present from their school to a room full of participants at the 2016 CECA/CASL Conference in Southington.

Students from John Paterson Elementary School in Newington were recently selected to present one of two Student Expos at the 2016 CECA/CASL Conference: Reimagine Learning. The Connecticut Educators Computer Association (CECA) and Connecticut Association of School Libraries (CASL) Conference is a place where teachers and librarians come together to explore and learn about new tools, resources, and educational experiences that they can implement in classrooms, schools, and districts throughout the state of Connecticut. Armed with their Chromebooks provided through the Newington district's 1:1 Technology program, Joseph Gionfriddo and Noah Borrup, both 4th graders at Paterson, led a 45-minute interactive presentation via live video chat at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville on Tuesday, October 25th.

Throughout this school year and last school year, Joe, Noah, and the other John Paterson Techsperts have been utilizing Google Apps for Education, also known as G Suite, for fun, imaginative, and educational experience with the help of the Techspert Advisor Mrs. Kate Wakefield, K-4 Educational Technology Teacher in Newington. For their CECA/CASL presentation called "Techsperts: Developing Student Agency through GAFE" they used Google Hangouts, a Google App, to share about their experiences in a collaborative Techsperts project they worked on with students in Southington. Joe and Noah successfully held the attention of a room full of library media specialists, technology integrationists, and administrators while enthusiastically speaking about their experience creating a Breakout EDU game utilizing Google Apps which they exchanged with Southington's Thalberg Elementary School Techsperts. This collaborative Techspert project addressed all the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards for students, however, it also helped the Techsperts develop agency by giving students power, choice, and autonomy in their future ready learning experience.