



PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For immediate release

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Glen Warren Recognized for Innovative Use of Technology in Classroom

Orange, CA – October 9, 2014 - McPherson Magnet School Technology Teacher and Librarian, Glen Warren, was one of three finalists for Project Tomorrow and the OC Tech Alliance's High Impact Teacher of the Year in Science, Math & Technology. This honor acknowledges an educator's use of science, math or technology to significantly impact student academic achievement.

Mr. Warren brings "Uncommon Core," student-selected topics of interest from the curriculum, into the classroom through the use of gaming. He uses the widely-popular Minecraft, a game that allows players to create worlds out of three-dimensional textured cubes, to engage students and challenge them to create beyond their textbooks.

One of the key components to the Minecraft project at McPherson is the students' ability to choose their own personal topics of interest to study out of either their social studies or science standards. Examples of topics chosen include a progression through the digestive system and the Original 13 colonies. Students then conduct deep investigations into their topics to make their Minecraft worlds.

According to Mr. Warren, "Students sharpen their 'how to learn' skills through state established information literacy standards and make academic connections across the curriculum," using his method of teaching.

Other ways Mr. Warren enhances students' desired learning include the following: D-QFTs (Digital Question Formulation Technique), the collaborative generation of many brainstorming questions which are narrowed to the focus prior to starting research; CAR (Credibility, Accuracy, and Relevance), a unique process to vet resources students are using; FAV (Field & Academic Vocabulary), which requires students to account for the learned technical language by citing sources and using academic language to describe meanings found while researching their areas of interest (required and desired); S&P (Schedule and Production), daily goals students set for what they hope to accomplish. Students then provide digital feedback at the end of class to show how they have progressed toward their goals.

This past September, Mr. Warren shared his methods and explained other ways to bring gaming and the Uncommon Core into the classroom as powerful learning tools at the OUSD District-wide staff development day *Celebrating the Possibilities*.

Anyone interested in collaborating with Mr. Warren can contact him at gwarren@orangeusd.org.

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The Orange Unified School District educates approximately 30,000 students in the Cities of Orange, Villa Park, Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana and county areas. The school district, founded in 1953, encompasses 108 square miles. The District office is located at 1401 N. Handy Street, Orange, California.