August 26, 2014

Dear Parents,

I am incredibly excited to inform you that I have been chosen to be one of the GCISD digital classroom teachers. What this means is that my students will have the digital tools necessary to approach learning in a whole new way in my classroom. It also means that I, along with other district digital classroom teachers will have the opportunity to chart the course for developing the digital classroom in GCISD.

While the content of the course(s) will not change, the manner in which students access information and construct meaning will look different. Each student will have an iPad to use in class everyday. In addition, there will be a set of laptops for student use in the class. Many students are already engaged with this type of technology outside of the classroom and we now have the opportunity to match this level of technology in the classroom as well. We will rely less on print resources, so the work your student brings home will certainly look different.

My commitment to you and your student is that I will utilize these digital tools to enhance the education of our students to the greatest extent possible while equipping them with the skills needed for success in the 21st Century. The transition to a digital classroom will mean that all parties involved must be flexible and open to change as I will teach differently and the students will learn differently than what has been done traditionally. While there are sure to be some bumps in the road as we move forward into a new type of education system, I am excited to see how far we can travel together.

With the advent of a digital classroom, the students will be utilizing various web sites and online applications in the process of their learning. Some of the websites we will use are Evernote, Schoology, Word Press, Google Docs, Twitter, and Wikispaces. If you have concerns about your child using these or other online sources, then please schedule a visit with me. More information about these and other sites we will be using can be found on my website.

This promises to be an exciting semester and I will keep you informed of our progress towards digital citizenship.

Sincerely,

Erin Dedwylder