SchoolWide Labs: Supporting the Integration of Computational Thinking into Middle School Science through Curriculum and Professional Development

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Project Goals



- Develop professional learning processes and tools to support the integration of computational thinking into middle school science using a sensing platform
- 2. Deepen students' interest and engagement in computational thinking

Year One Summary

- Teacher advisory board (TAB: 4 science/STEM teachers) engaged in
 - Year-long professional development
 - Co-designing a CT-integrated unit
 - Implementing the unit with their students 0
- **2.** Professional development workshops focused on: Unpacking computational thinking 0
 - Working with sensors and considering how to introduce them to students
 - Understanding the Next Generation Science Standards
 - Co-designing a storyline that integrated CT into middle school science, using environmental sensors
 - Viewing videos to reflect on instruction, 0 student learning, CT integration, and curriculum development
- **3.** Pilot Study implementation data collected from teachers & students

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Teachers planning the implementation of the mold unit



Driving Question Board: CT

Pilot Study The 4 TAB teachers implemented the weeklong curriculum described below

PD Workshop 1

- Get teachers excited about project
- Introduce CT, sensors & NGSS
- storyline approach

 Unpack CT Prepare TAB for pilot study implementation

PD Workshop 2



Pilot Study: Can Mold Grow in Our School?

Methods / Data collection

- Spring 2018 over 5 days
- 4 Teachers: Grades 5-8
- 270 Students
- Data: Video, observations, teacher and student interviews, student exit tickets (SEETs)

Brief online surveys that capture students' classroom experience over time related to

- Coherence
- Relevance
- General Experience

Day 1	 Mold can close schools Watch video about mold shutting down a school Generate driving question board about mold
Day 2	 Learn about mold Read case studies to determine what mold needs to grow
Day 3	 Design investigation to look for mold in our school Use knowledge learned in day 2 and sensors
Day 4	 Analyze data to make an argument for/against the potential for mold growth in our school Analyze the data collected to answer the question: Could mold grow here?
Day 5	 Share results with class Share results to determine where mold is most likely to grow in our school

Description of five day mold pilot study curriculum





Teachers using the second version of the sensor system to design a heat resistant phone case

PD Workshop 4 Design challenge

- using second version of sensor system
- Phenomena brainstorm



content

Sensor System Version 1: Measures CO₂, Humidity, Temperature, Pressure, Altitude and total VOCs.



Interface for controlling Sensor System Version 2.



Students creating visualization of the sensor data



Students developing a driving question board based on the mold storyline investigation.

Lessons Learned from Pilot Study



- TAB successfully implemented mold unit
- Students interested and engaged throughout the implementation
- Data analysis was cut short
 - The curriculum needs to be longer than five days
- Sensor use limited to one day
 - Integrate sensors throughout the unit (potentially through design challenges)



Workshops

computational thinking, data science, and science

• See data collected in real time

• More control over the sensor system

Finding sensor friendly phenomena aligning with

performance expectations in science is challenging

Excited about possibilities of sensor system version 2

TAB ideas about computational thinking expanding, but more work is needed to fully integrate their thinking about

