

To Whom it May Concern:

Books, silence, teachers talking, students listening, may be descriptors of most school Learning Commons. However, students collaborating, Virtual Reality, coding/robotics, digital research are just a few of the descriptors used to depict Mountain View's Learning Commons. This high energy, interactive, and inviting "classroom" would not be possible without the vision, passion, and content knowledge of our Media Specialist, Mrs. Jami O'Connor.

Mrs. O'Connor is a master teacher and her dedication to ensuring the Learning Commons is the central informational hub of the school is evident in everything she does. The beautiful inviting environment scattered with flexible seating and other designated learning spaces, highlights current traditional texts for all grade levels and interests, in addition to so much more. Digital resources, such as virtual reality lessons make every subject matter come to life and heighten student engagement. As a 5th grade teacher, I have witnessed sparked student connections and deeper understandings of parts of a cell, as Mrs. O'Connor lead my students through the inside of a cell during one of her virtual reality lessons. After each lesson, the students have the same question: "When can we come back for another lesson?".

Which leads me to one of the "buzz words" throughout our county: Collaboration. Collaborating is a strength of Mrs. O'Connor and she goes above and beyond to support teachers. Mrs. O'Connor is very knowledgeable of the various grade level standards and frequently relays to teachers digital and tangible resources available to support the standards. She effectively works with individuals, small groups, or entire classes. She is organized and always prepared for all "patrons" of the Learning Commons.

Mrs. O'Connor constantly avails herself to assist teachers, staff, and administrators to easily access technology, and successfully trouble shoots technology issues. She offers technology lessons not only to students but to teachers and makes the most novice technology user feels confident. When guests/presenters are using the Learning Commons, Mrs. O'Connor ensures their media is ready for use and helps without being asked.

As a 28-year veteran educator, I have witnessed various Learning Commons within a school. It is through this lens, I can truly say through Mrs. O'Connor's expertise Mountain View's Learning Commons is an integral part of our school and county's mission: Student Success. Mrs. O'Connor is a leader in her craft and the stakeholders of our school will reap the benefits of her amazing skill set for years to come.

Sharon Hackney

Sincerely,
Sharon Hackney
5th Grade- Mountain View Elementary

From Jessica Sutton
Kindergarten
Mountain View

“I love going up to play in the Learning Commons. She always has fun things to do.” Ayla M.

“The goggles are the best! We got to see lots of places. It was so cool.” Graylee V.”

“I like the iPads because we can see the places.” Ethan D.

It is truly remarkable how much time, energy, and thought Mrs. O'Connor puts into each of her engaging lessons. I have never worked at a school where the Media Specialist is so involved and proactive. Mrs. O'Connor is in constant contact when it comes to connecting what we are teaching in the classroom, incorporating it into her lessons, and bring it to life with technology. I have noticed that Mrs. O'Connor attends training that grows her in her field of expertise. It shows in her lessons as well.

I know that she is someone I can go to with assistance when needing support, she will help without hesitation. If there is something I want to bring to life in my classroom, she is my go-to person in the building. Mrs. O'Connor always has a smile on her face, a positive attitude, and is a team player. We all feel lucky and blessed to have her here at Mountain View Elementary School.

Links to videos and pictures of the Learning Commons in action.

<https://youtu.be/59UsnZFCXNU>

2nd Grade going into space to compare the size of objects in our Solar System.

<https://youtu.be/dVNkQQMvIOI>

Kindergarten using Ozobots to see different directions of movement.

Pictures of fun things happening in the LC!

