Virtual Elementary School Demonstration and Walk-through

Well hello everyone. I'm going to be your tour guide today as we take a look at the virtual elementary school. So, what does a virtual elementary school look like? Let's start in the kindergarten homeroom. The reason we know its kindergarten is because of this big k right here. You probably also noticed that the big k is on a green background and all of the kindergarten folders are green. This is so when you just look at the computer and you see all this green, you know you're in kindergarten. If you're a kindergarten student, and you log in and you get to your homeroom course, this is the landing page. This is what you'll see when you first come into your course.

You'll probably notice right here is the classroom, and you can click on the word or you can click on the picture. You'll also notice there's a folder here for resources and, very important, a "need tech help click here." We'll come back to that in a couple of minutes.

This is where you'll find information on your teacher and how to contact him or her, and some other information on the course and the grading policies.

We worked very hard to keep this main landing page as clean as possible so it would be easier for everyone to navigate. When the school year gets into full swing, you'll begin to see information populating this column over here, information on upcoming assignments and events.

This is what you're going to see when you first log in. So, let's look in the kindergarten Classroom. While the computer is pulling up our folders, you'll notice the green color. Let me draw your attention to this first folder up here at the top: Parent Resources and Orientation—begin here. This is where parents and students will start. There are many activities and lots of information on there so you can practice, learn how to navigate the Schoology classroom, learn how to navigate the folders to download and upload. It might sound a little overwhelming at first, but you'll have a lot of practice and there are a lot of people here to help you.

You'll also notice the different content areas laid out in folders below that so for kindergarten we have English language arts and reading, math, social studies, down a little farther we have science, and at the very bottom, if you can still see it, you have art as your elective for kindergarten. So, this is kind of an overview of what it looks like, but let's take a peek. Let's go and take a peek at math. So, if you have to do math work, you're going to be clicking in this area. As the school year progresses, many more folders will start to show up here. But, right now it's the very beginning of the school year and there's just one folder. It says getting started. The getting started activities are designed for practice and to help everyone learn about how to do virtual learning. So, when you open the folder and get into the content, you're going to see this icon and it looks like two rulers. The tools, they're labeled with different things to know and then you would click right here and it would take you out, linking out to the actual content. Now the getting started folder is really designed for parents and students to do together. We know that kindergartners are going to need a lot of help learning where to click.

Sometimes we have to be patient while everything is loading. The virtual elementary school has a lot of different colors a lot of tools and a lot of things for us to get familiar with. I don't want to spend too much time here because you'll be doing this yourselves very soon. But, there's a list of tools in these bubbles up here. If you hover you can see that the what the tool does or what it's called will populate. We have a screen reader, we have start and stop and go back and listen again, and all kinds of features. Students will want to pay attention to where to click the forward arrow for the next page or the back arrow or the home button to go back home. There's some information here on how to use the tool guide. So, I'm going to leave this for you to explore when the time comes and you're doing this with your student.

I'm going to take us back to the classroom, and I'll point out up here where my cursor is. We know we were in the getting started folder because we can see that's what's open here. Then we were in getting started for math and then, ultimately, we're in the classroom. We call this the breadcrumb trail. Follow the breadcrumbs. You can also go over here and click on materials, and that will take us back to the main page where we came in.

We sometimes call this the homeroom, and we sometimes call this the classroom. But, for all of the elementary school, everything you need for one grade is all contained in one place.

Let's jump ahead and look at second grade. Second grade is orange. I went straight into the classroom, so let me back up to the materials page again. As these folders begin to populate, I hope you notice that it's the same layout. We have the classroom, the resources folder, the need tech help, the teacher content, other information, the same layout over here in the left column. The main pages of the course site are here for you, updates are where the teacher would post any updates. We don't have any teachers or students yet, so we don't have any updates yet. You'll also see a page for grades. You can click here and see your current grade, but we don't have any students or teachers here yet so there's nothing to see there quite yet.

Let's take a look at the need tech help click here. For parents and students, if something doesn't seem to be working right, we don't want you to be frustrated. We don't want you to think you don't have anyone around to help. There are a lot of people working behind the scenes here to support you. When you click on the help desk ticket, it's going to open to this short survey. You would fill this information out and at the very bottom, I'm going to scroll down here, it's probably off the page, there's a next button and then a submit button. Let me scroll back up to the top. I want to point out this paragraph right here that says please stay online and logged in for at least 10 minutes. That's because we have people all over the world where you are. Many times, they're able to make contact with you in as short a time as 10 minutes. So, if you submit a help desk ticket and you're really not sure what to do, stay on your computer and stay on google hangouts, which is one of our communication tools, and chances are pretty good that someone's going to contact you really quickly. If you are in Okinawa, or if you are in Germany, we have people all over that are in your time zone to help you.

So, we had left off in second grade. Let's take a jump up to fourth grade. Fourth grade is blue, and you'll see again the same layout, the color coordinated folders, the classroom, the resources, the tech help. Everything here is very much the same. Going into the classroom, and as the computer starts to pull up the folders for us, you'll see the same layout: the parent resources and orientation folder, which is where you'll start, and then we have our subject areas for fourth grade. Again, English language arts and reading, math, science, let me scroll down a bit, social studies, and fourth graders and fifth graders have PE. I think that's pretty cool.

Lastly, we'll jump all the way up to fifth grade. You can see fifth grade is purple. Again, all the color coordinated folders. Our navigation, we can go back to the main page by following the breadcrumb trail or by clicking materials. M is for main page, that's how I remember it. So, once again, everything for the virtual elementary school is contained in one area for the grade level. If you're fifth grade or kindergarten or first grade, everything you need is all in the one home room or classroom. All of your subject areas are here, all of your information is here. You don't have to be clicking into many different areas.

Let's go back to where we started, back at kindergarten. Thank you so much for taking this quick tour of the virtual elementary school with me. We are very excited for our students to get into the school and get started with their learning