

Scheduling Your Middle School Kira Classes: Breakout Room Notes

Breakout Room A: Class duration is 6-9 weeks

Facilitator: Heather Stanley, Richview Middle School

- Heather's schedule: Currently Heather has 6 classes a day with 2 classes of each grade. With 25 students per class (Maximum allowed CTE Class size) this allows for 600 students to go through the course.
- Which students have to have this credit for next school year? At this time, all students "for whom it is academically appropriate" are required to have the credit before they leave middle school. This includes all current 6th and 7th graders. ([Senate Bill No. 2406, section 4, subpart a](#))
- How are they going to decide who is cognitively able? This should be determined during annual IEP meetings on a student by student basis by qualified personnel. ([US Dept. of Education, Guide to the IEP, Section 9](#))
- How can you fit additional hand on activities, like with robots, and still keep up with the pace of the course? Heather pulls extra activities in after completing the target lesson for Kira. She fits it in as time allows. Depending upon availability, robots and other hands on coding tools can be used for the content review and fit in with the pacing. Microsoft Micro-bit and Adafruit Circuit Playground Express are two computer boards used in classes that support python coding.
- Is there a document that maps all standards to each lesson? The curriculum guide which you can find at the beginning of Unit 1 Lesson 1 maps out standards for each unit.
- If the amendment passes, what is the recommendation for timing the course for 6, 7, 8 grades? Heather recommends having 6th graders do it first, before band. The earliest grade in the school would be the ideal time for ensuring all students get the class. This allows students who did not get the lessons in 6th grade to be caught up in either 7th or 8th grade.

Breakout Room C: Class duration is a semester or a year (A/B model)

Facilitator: Andy Hebert, Maryville Junior High

- Andy's schedule: He meets his students for 68 minutes every other day, for the duration of the entire school year
- Course flexibility allows for Kira to be used in a variety of scheduling frameworks, including a semester long or a year long structure
 - Kira's course can be used as is and fit within an abbreviated schedule like 6 weeks

- When there's more instructional time, teachers have a bit more room to spend additional time on concepts and bookend some of the Kira content with additional, supplementary materials or activities
 - Finch robots can be used in tandem with Kira's content and have proven to be valuable enrichment tools; they provide an opportunity for students to engage in hands-on application of the concepts they learn in Kira's course
 - Kira's practice corner is also an in-platform option for students to apply their knowledge in a variety of pre-written practice problems that will reinforce their learning
- Kira's teacher materials (curriculum guides, guided notes, lesson plans, powerpoint slides) offer a starting point for teachers to think through the steps of their lesson delivery and execution; lesson plans are time-stamped, so depending on the time you have with students, you can make adjustments as needed
- Preparing for varying levels of engagement and planning accordingly
 - Diversifying the modes of learning and application will be important for increasing and maintaining student engagement with CS material

Breakout Room D: Other models

Facilitator: Becky Ashe, TSIN

- Should we schedule the MS CS class in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade? The expectation is that a lot of kids really like technology and computers, so if they get this class in 6th grade, there are no other approved CS courses in MS. What are some things you might do as a school to keep the interest up from 6th grade until they can take the next course in HS? Someone who already sponsors a STEM or robotics club? Make sure students have opportunities to stay excited until they can take the next course!