



Ignite Creativity and Empowerment in Your Classroom with LEGO® Education Solutions

Samantha Edkins, an innovative STEAM teacher at South Fayette Intermediate School in Pennsylvania, has implemented SPIKE™ Prime with her 3rd through 5th graders in her STEAM class. Sam says, "I feel like there is so much you can do with these solutions, and what we have been able to accomplish this school year has been impressive. I am proud of what my students have been able to do and because of this, I personally have grown so much as a teacher."

When Sam introduced SPIKE™ Prime to her STEAM class, she instantly recognized its potential for her 400 students. Designed to encourage partner work, SPIKE™ Prime perfectly aligned with Sam's teaching philosophy. Compared to its predecessor, MINDSTORMS EV3, Sam found SPIKE™ Prime to be visually appealing, user-friendly, and highly efficient. Her students accomplished more, fueling their motivation and enthusiasm for learning.

Scaffolded Learning and Empowered Lesson Planning

In the beginning, Sam used LEGO Education's standards-aligned curriculum, and she praised its step-by-step coding approach and scaffolding. This curriculum not only guided her teaching but also empowered her to create her own lessons. Feeling supported by the resources that LEGO Education provides, Sam was able to seamlessly integrate the flexible and versatile SPIKE™ Prime into her curriculum. Furthermore, she had the tools to tailor the solution to her students' needs. Sam observed her students' rapid progress in coding skills when they started using SPIKE™ Prime. The user-friendly app and intuitive nature of SPIKE™ Prime reduced the time Sam needed to spend on teaching coding progressions. As a result, she could focus more on facilitating student exploration and problem-solving.

Progressive Learning and Lasting Engagement

Sam incorporates SPIKE™ Prime into her classroom routine about twice a month, gradually building coding and computational thinking skills. Feeling inspired by LEGO Education's existing curriculum, Sam has created her own units using SPIKE™ Prime. She has implemented and adapted a "driving unit" teaching students not only about robotics and coding, but also about the world around them. For younger students, she initiates building and programming robotic cars to navigate mazes and move left and right. As students move on to the next grade, they advance to constructing obstacle courses with diagonal movements and ramps. Sam's students consistently enjoy using SPIKE™ Prime year after year, relishing the creative and unique lessons made possible by LEGO Education's extensive curriculum resources.

Empowering Students and Delighting Parents

Sam notes that parents are highly impressed with their children's learning experiences in STEAM class and often inquire about further opportunities. The implementation of LEGO Education solutions has not only elevated student engagement but also fostered a sense of pride and

accomplishment among both students and parents. Sam is hoping to implement robotics competitions with SPIKE Prime in the upcoming school year.

Thinking of implementing LEGO Education solutions? Sam says, "Go for it!" Check out what South Fayette's students are doing [here](#) and follow them on Twitter to keep up with their innovative creations: [@SFIS_Steamlab](#).



Samantha Edkins
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