Connecting Students to the World Around Them

A passionate Curriculum Coordinator finds a rich supplementary online Science learning resource providing educators with a strategic boost.

**Name:** Candace Marque

**Role:** Curriculum Coordinator

**School:** Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School, Lake Charles, LA

**Challenge:** Providing individualized instruction to a largely gifted population; keeping them sufficiently challenged with up-to-date technology and resources.

**Solution:** Twig and Tigtag, the complete online resource for teaching elementary science from Carolina Science Online.

**Results:** Students learn science with current, up-to-date resources and a visually stunning online learning platform.

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**She loves her** job and loves her school, and she loves using Twig and Tigtag from Carolina Science Online: “I am constantly searching for new resources to help our teachers stay current and to engage our students in new ways,” says Candace Marque, the Curriculum Coordinator at 350-student Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School (EDS) in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Before EDS, Candace taught second grade for two years. “I love EDS because I have freedom to incorporate new and current materials,” she says. “The faculty members here are willing to address specific needs of individual children. I also love the wonderful families and their support.”

After earning her Bachelor’s degree from LSU and her Master’s from Loyola University and another Master’s of Education from Texas State University, Candace is certified to teach first through eighth grades. Recently, she completed her certification in gifted education. She also has two boys who attend EDS. In discovering Twig from Carolina Science Online, the program was a natural fit for her students. “All of our classrooms use Promethean boards and I was looking for new ways to use that technology within our current curriculum,” notes Candace. “We work very hard to differentiate and provide individualized instruction to meet the needs of each student.” EDS also has an unusually high gifted population (roughly 30 percent of the children), so “we look for resources that are challenging for them,” explains Candace.

As she had been looking for science materials in particular, she was immediately drawn to the Twig site. “The website is very easy to navigate and I knew I could easily teach our teachers...”
“We are the last pre-Internet generation. We must change our expectations and strategies to work for children who have never known a world without Internet, and with access to almost instant information.”

—Candace Marque, Curriculum Coordinator, Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School, Lake Charles, LA

A New Generation with higher expectations. Students at Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School in Lake Charles, Louisiana, are up to date and ready to learn. One of the district’s strategies for ensuring that teachers are providing students with a 21st-century education has been to connect student learning to real-life situations and the world around them. Twig science videos, through Carolina Science Online, are engaging even hard-to-impress students with fascinating video clips and stunning visual imagery.

how to navigate it,” she comments. She also liked what she saw, and how it was presented. “The videos are short in length. I was not searching for an entire lesson to be taught on the screen, rather for an enhancement of a concept we teach or an extension of the material,” says Candace. "It is much easier for teachers to add this small enhancement to grab students’ attention or reinforce a lesson. Also, the quality of the video is wonderful! Students today are viewing current high-quality video and they can tell when video looks dated," she says.

The day school where Candace teaches has been in operation since 1953 and provides academic excellence to a diverse student body in a Christian environment. Their reputation in the community is well known for producing creative, highly successful graduates who become leaders in their own fields. Nurturing and passionate teachers like Candace offer academic rigor, a creative curriculum and innovative differentiation for their students in a state-of-the-art technology environment. Extracurricular activities and other opportunities allow their students to find and develop new passions. "Each day we develop and, more importantly, encourage skills such as teamwork, creativity, ethics, resilience, curiosity, and time management," says Candace. A family oriented environment, the school is quick to support each student in helping them to discover their own talents.

One of the district’s 21st century teaching strategies has been to connect students’ learning to real-life situations and the world around them. “The lessons are very relevant in this way, giving us quick access to discoveries around the world with material that is current and can be updated," says Candace.

Of her colleagues, she says: “We are the last pre-Internet generation. We must change our expectations and strategies to work for children who have never known a world without Internet, and with access to almost instant information." In their first year of allowing their middle school students to bring their own laptops, "Teachers are integrating more and more technology into their lessons," observes Candace. "So far, it is going amazingly well and both teachers and students are enjoying the journey."