Ici on parle français – PD grants for FSL teachers

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Navigating French: Learning Directions through Robotics

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What We Did

We implemented an interactive, interdisciplinary project where Grade 7 French Immersion students with a gifted IEP mentored Grade 7 Core French students in both coding and French language skills. The focus was on learning directional vocabulary in French and applying it by programming LEGO SPIKE robots to navigate a designated course each designed by a group of students.

The main activities included:

- Vocabulary lessons on directional phrases in French.
- Hands-on coding workshops using the LEGO SPIKE platform.
- Collaborative team projects where students programmed their robots to follow a mapped route and presented their final work.

What We Learned

- **Integrating technology and language instruction:** Using robotics made learning directions in French more engaging and meaningful.
- **Mentorship benefits:** Grade 7 French Immersion students developed leadership skills while reinforcing their own learning by helping their Core French counterparts.
- **Hands-on learning is highly engaging:** Students were more motivated when they could apply language skills in a real-world, interactive setting.
- **Building teacher confidence in coding:** The project helped educators improve their ability to use LEGO SPIKE Prime as a learning tool.

How We Shared Our Learning With Others

- Students showcased their robot navigation projects to their peers and teachers.

- Educators involved in the project discussed their findings and best practices with colleagues.

- We shared our experience in the parent weekly to showcase all of the hard work the students put into their integrated coding and language learning project..

Links to Our Work

- Navigating French: Learning Directions through Robotics - Presentation

Any Next Steps We Have To Continue Our Learning

- Exploring additional ways to integrate robotics into French instruction beyond directional vocabulary (e.g., storytelling with robots (robot illustrates the narration), smart home simulations (use of the imperative), cultural exploration project (robot "travels" to different parts of the world), etc.

- Expanding the project to include different grade levels.

- Sharing our experiences with a wider educator community through presentations, workshops, or professional learning networks.