



FAST FACTS

Name: Lori Smith

Role: K-12 STEM and Fine Arts Coordinator

School: Sumter School District, Sumter, SC

Challenge: Struggling with an infrastructure in need of upgrade, technology integration, budget concerns, open-ended, structureless science videos.

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

Results: Confident teachers and engaged students.

CONTACT:

Bruce Wilcox, VP,
Carolina Science Online
bruce.wilcox@carolina.com
(336) 534-0953

A Standard-Friendly Online Resource for Teachers

Science Coordinator on a search for something better discovers a useful tool for teachers in an engaging format for students.



Lori Smith is the K-12 science, STEM, and fine arts coordinator for the Sumter Schools in South Carolina. This includes 16 elementary schools, seven middle schools, and three high schools. In addition, the district has an alternative school and a Technology and Career Center. Twig and Tigtag from Carolina Science Online have proven to be a useful tools in helping Sumter School District enhance its science program, and to give teachers the ability to teach science with confidence.

The search is over. *On a quest for excellence for the students in her school district, Lori Smith found affordable, engaging resources that both teachers and students love.*

South Carolina has adopted new Academic Standards and Performance Indicators for science. Many of the details of this new metric for standards and performance are new, and require that teachers

become proficient in teaching scientific and engineering practice and with science content as well. “We are working to integrate technology into our schools,” observes Smith, “while struggling with an infrastructure that needs to be upgraded. Not only do we need the hardware (iPads, laptops, etc.), we also need every classroom to be wireless – not just every school, but *every classroom.*”

Smith was all too aware that students were frequently sitting and watching a video clip drone on and on with no clear message or point. “I had dedicated teachers telling me they were nervous about teaching science because they were afraid they would get something wrong. That sent me on a search for something better.” That something, as Smith quickly found, was Twig and Tigtag from Carolina Science Online.

“These products are a comprehensive online resource for teaching primary school science,” Smith explains. “They consists of a huge suite of high-impact videos that highlight scientific concepts in graphic and clear ways that are easily comprehended. These amazing products

www.twigcarolina.com
www.tigtagcarolina.com

Bringing the Excitement of Science to the Classroom.

Twig and Tigtag are services of



“The inherent power of the resource and the backup support that comes with it has built teachers’ confidence in wonderful ways.”

—Lori Smith, STEM and Fine Arts Coordinator, Sumter School District, Sumter, SC



Sumter students. *With the same budgetary concerns as so many school districts across America, Sumter Schools in South Carolina have managed to plug in to the right science resources for their students..*

bring science to life. The videos make their point with power and clarity, and explain scientific concepts in ways that are engaging and effective. It is great for a generation of children raised on fast-paced video games.”

Twig and Tigtag are ready-to-use. Factually correct, concise and to the point, this online resource grabs and holds the student’s attention. It comes with a full complement of support materials – activity sheets, lesson ideas, lesson prep and more. Like the videos, these ancillary materials are also fun and engaging. “There is no doubt,” Smith comments, “that Tigtag and its sister product Twig have added energy to our science program and increased both student and teacher enthusiasm for science.”


Twig and Tigtag have made it easier for teachers to grapple with the new standards as they adjust to new demands for their time in learning new “standard-friendly” ways of presenting science concepts. “Twig and Tigtag allow our teachers to personalize their own learning,” Smith observes. “They can peruse new material in a quick and user friendly way — from work or from home. As I visit schools, it is not uncommon for teachers to tell me how much they are enjoying

the videos. It is clear Twig and Tigtag are becoming an integral part of their science classrooms.

“The power of Twig and Tigtag is threefold,” Smith

notes. “First of all, the structure of the program is new and different, yet easy to navigate. As a result, there is a uniformity that increases teachers’ willingness to adopt this wonderful resource. We have usage throughout the district. Secondly, the support provided by the Tigtag associates who are working in partnership with us has been far above the norm. It has made a tremendous difference for us to have such knowledgeable and dedicated people to guide us. They are always ready to troubleshoot and resolve any issue. The inherent power of the resource and the backup support that comes with it has built teachers’ confidence in wonderful ways. And third — the materials are stunning. They are great for kids, interesting, full of real life imagery (not cartoons). Best of all, they are scientifically correct and relevant.”

“Twig and Tigtag are not just some product that is hoping to succeed just on the basis of being new,” says Smith. “Rather, they provide an integrated approach to teaching science, strategically developed with a purpose. I highly recommend the program. It is not every day that we find something that fits so beautifully.”

Smith believes that technology is an exciting tool with the demonstrable capability of transforming education. “It is a great time to be an educator,” she notes. “But it also can be a frustrating time as you wait for funds to follow the need. That’s why it is such a pleasure to discover something like Twig and Tigtag – products that actually work, that are well thought out, and superbly supported. And the fact that they are affordable is icing on the cake.” 



THE RIGHT RESOURCES

Teachers and students:

- Love the navigable structure
- Love the helpful support
- Are stunned by the imagery.

www.twigcarolina.com
www.tigtagcarolina.com

Bringing the Excitement of Science to the Classroom.

Twig and Tigtag are services of

carolina
science
ONLINE