

Foundation for Schools in Edgefield County Follow-Up Report  
2019-20 Recipient  
J.Knapp  
J-E-T Middle School  
Johnston, SC

For this current school year, I was awarded funding to purchase micro:bits for our Gateway to Technology Program at J-E-T Middle School. I foresaw micro:bits as a wonderful way to introduce grade seven to the STEM coding concepts through a less intimidating route than is taught through the grade eight programming in Automation and Robotics. My desire has been to add to the student experience by creating more opportunities to solidify the foundations of programming and coding in our STEM curriculum. Using the micro:bits in the seventh grade STEM curriculum is enabling me to give my students a strong conceptual foundation as it pertains to engineering, computer science, and automation. I have been able to introduce concepts that will be reinforced in a more natural way, due to these micro:bits, when they reach the grade eight curriculum. My students have exhibited so much excitement working with the block programming we use to code the micro:bits. As student understandings increase, so does their enthusiasm. The anxieties and apprehensions that they carry as related to programming and coding have been dissipating as they gain deeper understandings in fun, exciting ways. Micro:bit programming has a way of providing immediate gratification to the students. They have truly been having a blast with them, while unknowingly deepening their understandings and trading in their fears and intimidations that in many cases go hand-in-hand with coding and programming! I have been able to introduce them to a new level of micro:bit programming; we have been first mastering the basics of the micro:bit and then introducing the robot car, which is controlled by a programmed micro:bit. They are able to code the micro:bits to communicate with the robot cars to make them move forward, backward, spin left, spin right, play music (that they code, of course!), and so much more! My gratitude toward your generosity grows with every little change I see in my students! Thank you so much for your help and support!

