

# WISD Assistive Tech Triannual

October 2018, vol 2 issue 1

## Announcements:

### Fall Has Arrived!

The school year is in full swing, and with that, the Assistive Technology Augmentative Communication (ATAC) Lab is here to assist you with your students' assistive technology needs. The ATAC Lab is now open for an additional day during the week (Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm). If you know any new staff members who would benefit from using our resources, please let them know about us. Requesting an account is easy, and there is a link provided in the "Reminders" section of this newsletter.

In addition, a new assistive technology coordinator has joined our team. Jamie Mayo joined us at the beginning of the school year to take over for Ronnie Connors, who retired in June. Learn more about Jamie in the "The Happenings" section of this newsletter.

There are several patrons who have overdue materials from the spring and summer. Please reply to any emails you receive from the ATAC Lab regarding these overdue items. It is important that the ATAC Lab maintain up-to-date information about the location and status of our equipment. View the "Quick Tips" section for how to renew items. We appreciate your cooperation with this request.

## Reminders:

### Update Your Account Information

This year has brought us changes to staff and staff locations. If you are still planning to check out materials from our online catalog and you have changed buildings, please let us know. Library items often end up lost in the inter-district mail's black hole when we don't send them to the correct location, so please help save us money and time by keeping us aware of your location.

You can update your location, email, and/or phone number in our library system one of two ways:

1. Fill out the [Request an Account](#) form located on the Home page of the online catalog. Fill out the form with your new building and contact information. You can also use this form to reset your password.
2. Email [library@washtenawisd.org](mailto:library@washtenawisd.org) with your updated building and contact information.

You will receive a confirmation email letting you know your account information has been updated. If you know anyone who has changed buildings and uses the library system, please encourage them to let us know, too.

## Quick Tip: Renewing Items

Renewing items you'd like to continue using is easy! Just email [library@washtenawisd.org](mailto:library@washtenawisd.org) to let us know.

In general, you can renew an item an unlimited number of times. The only reason you would not be approved for a renewal would be that another patron has requested the item, and we ask that you return the item to the ATAC Lab as soon as possible. This happens most often with our testing materials and high-demand devices.

Regular checkout time periods vary depending on the type of material:

- Equipment (AAC, academic aids, switches, etc.) is checked out until the end of the school year.
- Tests have a two-week checkout period.
- iPads have a two-month checkout period.

When you receive an overdue notice for materials you want to renew, just reply to the email with your request. You can use this same process to report lost or broken item as well. Just let us know the name of the item and what isn't working or what is missing.

## New Equipment: Cause and Effect Toys

We have added several new switch-activated toys and sensory switches to our collection. The plush toys are fun and perfect for students to learn cause and effect through play. You can check these toys out via our online catalog or stop by the lab during our open hours to take a looksee.



## The Happenings: Meet Jamie Mayo, Our New Assistive Tech Coordinator!

It has been a whirlwind month in my new position as Assistive Technology Coordinator at WISD. I appreciate the help and assistance of everyone as I get settled in this new position. Previous to this position, I was at Michigan Medicine for 17 years working in the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation as a rehabilitation engineer. While at Michigan some of the projects I enjoyed were

- performing assistive technology evaluations at Mott Hospital and in an outpatient setting,
- working with Occupational and Physical Therapy using adaptive gaming to motivate children to participate in their therapy sessions,
- working with Speech and Language Therapy for augmentative communication evaluations,
- building adaptive ride-on cars as mobility devices for very young children,
- designing and 3D printing AT solutions, and
- starting the University of Michigan Adaptive and Inclusive Sports Experience (UMAISE) to provide adaptive sports opportunities for children with disabilities.

My background is in engineering. I have a master's degree in biomedical engineering. I also have the RESNA certifications for Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) and Rehabilitation Engineering Technologist (RET). I understand this is very different than other professionals working in the schools. I hope that my diverse skills can provide some interesting opportunities for collaboration at WISD. I am looking forward to bringing some new professional development opportunities for staff and unique AT solutions for our students.

On a personal note, I am the mom of boys: an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Washtenaw International Middle Academy in Ypsi schools and a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Bishop Elementary in Lincoln schools. My husband is an English teacher at Woodhaven High School in Wayne County. I enjoy traveling with my family, hiking, riding my bicycle, and quilting.

Please, drop me a note to let me know what you would like to see happening with assistive technology in Washtenaw County. I am eager to hear your ideas and start collaborating!

Thank you for being a welcoming community!

## Contact Information:

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WISD Teaching and Learning Center

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Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 7:30 am—3:30 pm\*

\*Items are van delivered to school districts every Wednesday. If you would like to pick up your item from the WISD, please send an email request to [library@washtenawisd.org](mailto:library@washtenawisd.org).