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more like Matt by being compassionate, forgiving, kind and showing unconditional love.

Hooton also wants to bring awareness to World Down Syndrome Day on March 21, when people across the globe celebrate their loved ones and help end stereotypes around the condition.

“They picked 3/21 as World Down Syndrome Day because the triplication of the chromosome happens in the 21st set,” she said. “It’s a day to focus on inclusion. A lot of people wear crazy socks. That was how the day initially started. If you’re wearing crazy socks and somebody sees it, that gives you an opportunity to speak about it.”

“Big People Don’t Pee in the Park: A Mother and Son’s Journey with Down Syndrome” reached best-seller status within the first 24 hours of publication and became an international best-seller within 72 hours.

Hooton will be at Barnes & Noble in Jordan Landing (7157 Plaza Center Drive) on Saturday, March 16, signing her book between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. She also offers a list of tips and resources on her website at wendylhooton.com

“If you’ve got anyone in your life who is living the same journey, we all seem to feel the same way once it gets going. We wouldn’t trade it for anything,” she said. “Not to sound cliché, but that’s what I wanted to show them is that they’re in for an amazing journey. I wanted to be relatable to them. I wanted them to know that I understood where they were.” ✦

AI provides real-life experiences in the classroom

By Jet Burnham | j.burnham

Editor’s note: this is part of a series of articles about artificial intelligence in schools.

AI tools in the classroom immerse students in historical context, help them realize real-world applications for math skills and provide them the freedom to demonstrate what they’ve learned in creative ways that develop their skills and interests.

Jordan School District teachers are encouraged to utilize AI tools such as Canva, Adobe Suite and SchoolAI.

“It’s been exciting to see so many teachers jump on board, learn more and start to use AI for themselves and to help their students,” Jordan School District Superintendent Dr. Anthony Godfrey said.

Godfrey experienced for himself an AI-augmented history lesson created by a JSD teacher. In a choose-your-own adventure activity, he experienced being a soldier in the Revolutionary War and then an explorer on the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

“I had to make decisions about whether to camp for the night, where to travel next, how to avoid dangers, and as a result, it really pulled me into that experience in a way that no other tool could have,” he said. “The interactive nature of it, the immersive nature of that learning is something that we’ve only



Pioneer Obstacle Trail

Pioneer Trail Word Adventures

Embark on a linguistic journey through the Utah Mormon Pioneer Trail with your 4th-grade students. As pioneers, they will face challenges that require correct usage of commonly confused words to progress. This engaging space combines history and language arts, where each obstacle is an opportunity to practice and solidify their understanding of tricky homophones.

K Created by **Kelleen Leslie**

An example of an AI interactive classroom activity. (SchoolAI screenshot courtesy of Kasey Chambers)

begun to explore.”

JSD Digital Learning Specialist Kasey Chambers helps teachers find and utilize digital tools to enhance their lessons and engage students. One popular activity called ‘chat with a historical figure’ brings people like Abraham Lincoln or Rosa Parks to life through an AI-generated interaction which responds realistically to students’ questions and comments. Some teachers use this activ-

ity as part of the research process.

“Students research a historical figure, plan questions to ask and then chat with the historical figure,” Chambers said.

Another AI interaction teachers are using to help students understand a historical event is to have the student and the AI both write an essay with opposing perspectives of an event. Then the students compare and contrast the points in both essays.

AI activities are also being used in math classes to bring the equations off the page and into the real-world.

An interactive AI activity gamified math skills practice for a sixth-grade class. Students were motivated to calculate the ratios for ingredients to formulate a potion to save a wizard.

One instructor reached out to district math specialist Amy Kinder to collaborate on an engaging exercise to allow students to practice on-the-job math skills in a medical assisting class.

“We decided to use AI to help us plan so that we could make a strong lesson,” Kinder said. “It was quick and easy to set up.”

Instead of converting fractions to decimals and ounces into milliliters on a worksheet, the students worked through real-world scenarios, such as calculating medication dosages for a specific patient. The AI responded to the students’ actions, adjusting follow-up scenarios based on the student’s responses, providing more examples if the student had calculated inaccurately or increasing the complexity of the tasks if they demonstrated understanding.

The exercise took just 15 minutes of class time; however the majority of the students accessed the activity again on their own time.

“About 70% of them went home and practiced more,” Kinder said. “They chose to practice on their own when they didn’t have to so that they were prepared for the assess-

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