

## Mantalaan



STEC CELEBRATES-

## STUDENTS' DAY 2022

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#TechTalks: Where Fun Meets Learning

## #TechTalks: Where Fun Meets Learning

## CHLOE NICOLE L. BORJA -

"How can we make the world a better place through gaming?"

The #TechTalks: Game-Based Learning virtual symposium that was held last August 28, 2021, asked this daring question to their Facebook Live audience.

Game-based learning is the educational technique of integrating game/game principles to the classroom. In the case of this episode of #TechTalks, they specifically delived into Minecraft Education Edition and Robotics Journey.

The four-hour live program was co-hosted by STECians Minly Kaye Bagulo and Samantha Grace Baguio. Local and international speakers were invited to share their experiences with game-based learning. The first speaker Symbol C. Favellon, an Education Technology (EdTech) Coordinator and Junior High Science teacher in De La Salle Santiago Zobel School (DLSZ), detailed how they used Minecraft: Education Edition to cultivate gamebased learning in the classroom. From recreating Pagay Church to terraforming Mars to make it habitable for humans, students can seemingly go beyond the four walls of the classroom and all the way to outer

The second speaker John Christopher Ambong, also an EdTech Coordinator and Science teacher in DLSZ, did just that by showcasing the Minecraft Virtual Planetarium which was a

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collaboration by the DLSZ - Young Astronomers' Society and DLSAU - Green Astronomical Society. The students recreated the International Space Station, Diwata-1, and Diwata-2

The next speaker, a recipient of the Top 10 Outstanding Flighions and a DLSZ teacher, was Winnie Diola. She addressed her fellow teachers and presented the innovative ways they can incorporate the Microsoft teachnology tool in the classroom to address the needs of digital learners. Diola showed further examples of their game-based learning activities in DLSZ such as bythoon safety, ecosystems, prototype habitat, and alternative energy resources.

Pamy Mojeres, a CTE/ IT Teacher and robotics coach currently working in North Dakota. USA, was the next speaker. His topic, "Bobotics for Education" showed the innovative application of robotics in the classroom. Mojeres showed how he robotics curriculum is beneficial to kids' overall development where students can learn coding skills, develop collaborative skills, and hone their problems-oxiving skills.

The international speaker, bean Vendramin, is a Social, Math, and Robotics Teacher at Archbishop MC Oheill Catholic High School in Canada. He showed how he and his students used the Minecraft: Education Edition to recreate ancient Civilizations like Ancient Greece in their Social Studies subject.

Last but not the least, they invited one of our own students, Carl Vincent Kho, to talk about his experiences in game-based learning as a student. Kho showcased his works in Platus: The Money Games Cell World: 30 Model of Cell, The Butterfly Effect, and more. He demonstrated the kind of skill the 21st-century learner can attain with game-based ieaming.

According to Gutierrez and Lopez in their study (2015), game-based learning has been shown to increase student motivation. The games' immersive environments allow for better levels of activity and engagement among students despite the fact that video games are considered non-essential tools in an educational setting. And this is evident in the various student works displayed during the live symposium; from the DLSZ Minecraft Campus all the way to the Minecraft Virtual Planetarium.

Once again, "How can we make the world a better place through gaming?" Well, the #TechTalks certainly amswered this question. When fun meets learning, students are more open to studying and collaboration. And seeing these aspiring youths and their Minecraft creations can really make you think that in the 21st century, maybe, just maybe, the future of education no longer just lies on the blackboard, it extends even to the computer screen.