9/4:

So far, so good! I’m really excited to start and see what there is to learn and do and to get to know everyone. I really enjoyed the reading for this week, especially the Luddite excerpt: aside from me realizing that they are not from the Stone Age (oops) it was interesting to see how they rebelled against technology but in a good way. Right now my biggest questions are just how to use the different accounts we’ve signed up for, especially GitHub: it scares me lol.

9/11:

This was my first week student teaching with students which was rather overwhelming, so I didn’t get anything done CDL wise lol. I did start learning a lot about the technologies my cooperating teacher uses, particularly Google Classroom and GoGuardian, which allows teachers to see students’ screens on school-issued Chromebooks and to send them private messages, since Google Meets does not have that capability. I’ve also learned that Bitmoji is huge in the education world, especially with the pandemic, which came as a surprise. Teachers like it because it adds some more personalization/energy to presentations and the like and allows them to “see” their face. At any rate I’m excited to learn more about the technologies used in middle school classrooms and to connect them with what the CDL is doing! My big question this week is what are some of the most common technologies used in colleges?

9/18

The readings that I got through this week on racism and bias in technology was super interesting, as was our discussion at the meeting yesterday. We talked about how facial recognition software is less accurate on POC because they are predominantly trained on White faces and how that, combined with current institutional biases like the greater amount of surveillance cameras in Black and Brown communities, the use of this technology as it stands will have devastating impacts on POC. We extended this towards smart speakers and how they have trouble understanding non-neutral accents and how they usually have female voices which reinforces gender roles. With the discussion of how the creation of algorithms permeates the creators’ biases, I’m really starting to think about how much these biases impact the technology I use, especially in the language used by computers: we talked a little bit about how they reflect what “proper” English is, and that’s something I’m now very clearly noticing in the messages on my computer and websites I read. It’s always following the grammar structure used predominantly by White, middle to upper class, older (I don’t know how to put this but not youth), well-educated people that the majority of people don’t actually use. Thinkin about who these computers were designed by and for, that makes a lot of sense, and to me is one of the clearest examples of how bias is everywhere in technology.