



Madeira Board of Education, 7465 Loannes Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45243
Contacts can be reached at 513.985.6070
Kenji Matsudo, Superintendent
Tim Weber, Assistant Superintendent,
Diane Nichols, Public Relations

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TED Talks Middle School Style

Madeira Middle School (MMS) seventh graders recently produced their own TED Talk, incorporating new oral language and research skills they learned along the way.

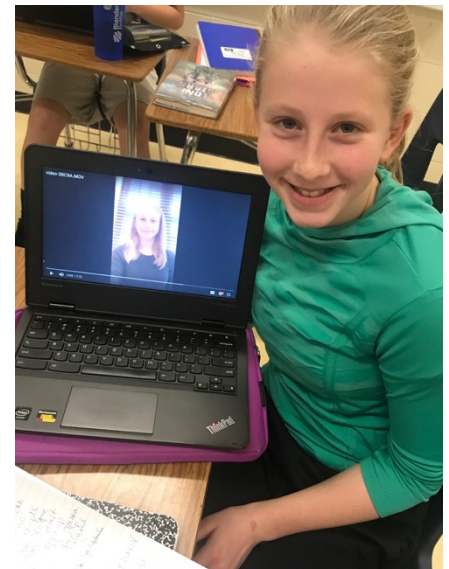
TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) is a non profit devoted to spreading ideas and sharing information in the form of short, videotaped dialogs. MMS seventh grade teachers showed their classes Tim Urban's Ted Talk "Inside the Mind of a Procrastinator" to help them understand the informative talk format. Students researched a topic they were interested in, then selected and read an informative book on the subject to prepare for their presentations. Ideas about what they wanted their audience to learn were written on their individual 'Ted Talks Organizer' pages.

Using the Tim Urban video as a model, students then wrote, recorded and uploaded a 2-4 minute verbal report on their school provided Chrome books. Classmates viewed each other's videos and provided feedback in the form of positive comments. Students could also create a visual info-graphic on their topic for extra credit.

Seventh grader Maxwell James read *The History of Money* by Martin Jenkins. He compared what he learned from the book with information he discovered in a You Tube video on the history of money. Maxwell explained his book choice saying, "I wanted to learn more about the people who first thought of using paper money – how they used it and what they thought."

Ella Garza read about rescuing rhinos and Luke Spencer read survival stories. MMS seventh grader Iris Katz selected the book *People Who Said No: Courage Against Oppression*. "I like reading and writing about history," she explained. "I knew about Rosa Parks but I learned about a lot of other people who stood up for what they believed – like Andrei Sakharov who earned the Nobel Peace Prize for speaking out against the Russian government.

Seventh Graders Maxwell James said the most important thing he learned from the unit was how to organize and include all the things he wanted to say about a topic that's important to him – a skill he will be able to use his entire life.



Pictured: Iris Katz displays her TED Talk on people who stood up for their beliefs