

@CSTANJ

@CS4NJ

#CSPDWeek2026

#CompSciNJ

@csteachersorg



New Jersey CSPDWeek

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Award No. 2607763.

My QR Code

Scan QR Code



Personal QR code allows you to



Be checked into the event or sessions.



Share your profile information with other attendees.



BEYOND THE PROMPT EDUCATOR WORKSHOP • AUGUST 4, 2026 • HANDS-ON

Hands-On AI Storytelling for the K-5 Classroom

Free tools, real lessons, and creativity that stays with your students.
Welcome!



About Me

Ashley Sullivan

- Union & Essex Counties, NJ
- Certified K-6 Educator
- Founder of KidzPrep, est. 2015

STAY IN TOUCH

Ashley Sullivan

CEO, KidzPrep Education

■ **Email** kidzprep@gmail.com

■ **Phone** 848-628-4305

■ **Community** www.kidzprep.com

Today's Agenda

Three hours, three hands-on blocks, two real breaks

0:00	Welcome	What your survey told us, and today's promises
0:15	Part 1 • Free AI tools	Guided tour + your first prompts, hands-on
1:00	Break • 10 minutes	
1:10	Part 2 • Digital Storytelling	Build a story-and-design project for your grade
2:00	Break • 10 minutes	
2:10	Part 3 • Frequently Asked Questions	Management, ethics, and creativity with young learners
2:50	Closing	Everything leaves the room with you

13_{/13}

WHY WE'RE HERE

“Leave with ready-to-use lesson ideas and resources.”

Every one of you chose this goal. Everything today is built to go home with you.

Part 1 • 45 minutes

Free AI Tools

Your most-requested topic — 12 of 13 asked for it. Nothing in this hour needs a paid license.



The Tool Landscape

Five free tools, each with one clear classroom job

ChatGPT / Gemini / Claude

Brainstorming, story starters, differentiated text — your thinking partner

Canva Magic Studio

Illustration, layout, and design — where student stories become visual

MagicSchool AI

Teacher workflows — lesson plans, rubrics, family letters, built for K-12

Diffit

Leveled reading passages — one text, every reader in your room

12 of you have tried ChatGPT · 9 Gemini · 9 Canva — we start from what you know.

Choosing the Right Tool

Feeling overwhelmed by options? One question cuts through: **what do you need it to make?**

NEED WORDS?

ChatGPT or Gemini

Story ideas, writing prompts, leveled vocabulary, letters home

NEED VISUALS?

Canva Magic Studio

Story illustrations, book covers, posters, class slideshows

NEED TEACHER TIME BACK?

MagicSchool or Diffit

Rubrics, plans, and differentiated texts in minutes, not evenings

You don't need all five. Pick one from today and get comfortable — that's the win.

The Wider AI Toolbox

Beyond today's five — almost everything has a genuinely useful free tier

WRITING & RESEARCH

ChatGPT · Gemini · Claude · Copilot · Perplexity · **NotebookLM** (study guides & podcasts, fully free)

DESIGN & IMAGES

Canva · Adobe Express · Leonardo · **Ideogram** (readable text inside images) · Midjourney (paid only)

SLIDES & DIAGRAMS

Gamma (AI slide decks) · Napkin AI (concept maps & infographics)

MUSIC & VOICE

Suno & Udio (student songs) · ElevenLabs (AI voiceover, free characters daily)

VIDEO

Runway · Pika · Kling (daily free credits) · HeyGen & Hedra (talking avatars)

CODING & APPS

GitHub Copilot (free for verified teachers) · Cursor · Lovable & Bolt.new (build apps from a prompt)

Free tiers: daily credits, standard quality, sometimes watermarks — plenty for classroom use.

Paid adds: speed, credits, quality, commercial rights. Start free — pay only when a tool earns it.

What Can Students Create?

A creation ladder — the products grow up with the students

K-2

Explore & create

Picture books, story characters, songs, comics, coloring pages, kindness posters

3-5

Explain & design

Comics, podcasts, travel brochures, museum exhibits, animations, science infographics

6-8

Solve & build

Websites, short films, app mockups, chatbots, business plans, news broadcasts

9-12

Create & innovate

Portfolios, startups, documentaries, research papers, apps, brand kits

Project sparks for our room: **draw your imaginary pet • invent a new dinosaur • design a National Park • create a restaurant • invent a board game**

What Can Teachers Create?

Your planning nights, shortened — AI drafts, you approve

PLANNING

Lesson & unit plans · STEM challenges · choice boards · escape rooms · project ideas

ASSESSMENT

Quizzes & tests · rubrics · exit tickets · leveled reading passages · math word problems

COMMUNICATION

Parent letters · classroom newsletters · report-card comments · slides & worksheets

One rule: anything touching student records — IEP accommodations, report comments — is a draft until a human reviews it.

My Experience with AI in the Classroom

The short version — fumbles included

RESTRICTIONS

- District Internet Accessibility
- Age Limits/Verifications
- Limited Credits
- AI Bias (programming/prompting limitations)

WHAT FLOPPED

- General Research (sourced-based evidence)
- Comprehension

WHAT STUCK

- Planning
- CS Dev./Programming (apps, websites, music, voice & AI clones, video & film generation)

I didn't start at a comfort level of 5 either. Nobody does.

Break

10 minutes

Part 2 • 50 minutes

Digital Storytelling

11 of 13 asked for this — How in use AI in your classroom

Digital Storytelling, PreK–5

The same project, shaped to your grade band

PREK–2

Teacher drives the tool

Students dictate the story aloud; you type, AI illustrates. Kids make every creative choice — no navigation required.

[Storywizard AI](#)
[Google](#)
[Gemini Storybook](#)

GRADES 3–5

Students draft, AI assists

Students write first, then use AI for revision ideas, illustrations, and layout in Canva — author's chair stays theirs.

[Cartoon Creators Demo](#)

SPECIAL EDUCATION

AI as access ramp

Speech-to-text, visual supports, and leveled language let every student author a story they're proud of.

[Canva](#)
[Notebook LM](#)

STUDENTS AS AUTHORS

AI drafts. Students decide.

AI CAN

Offer three story starters · suggest a rhyme · illustrate a scene · read a draft aloud

STUDENTS ALWAYS

Choose the idea · write the words that matter · reject what doesn't fit · own the final story

You told us you worry AI could stifle creativity. This rule is how every lesson today protects it.

Break

10 minutes

Part 3 • 40 minutes

In Your Classroom

Management, ethics, and creativity with young learners — the concerns you named, answered practically.

The Main Thing is....

- 1 continue to read
- 2 continue to research and use primary sources as artifacts
- 3 continue to write
- 4 continue to ask questions

Managing AI with Young Learners

“My first graders struggle just navigating the technology.” — heard, and solved with routines

- **One screen, whole class.** For PreK–2, project the tool — students direct, you drive.
- **Station rotation.** One AI station you supervise; other stations run offline — no whole-class tech wrangling.
- **Pre-made links and templates.** Students land inside the activity, never on a login page.
- **Paper first, screen second.** Plan and draft on paper; the screen is only for the final step.

Ethics for Young Learners

Four plain-language rules that work as classroom anchor charts

“We say when AI helped.”

Honesty about tools, modeled from PreK up — the habit that prevents later misuse

“We keep our names and faces private.”

No student names, photos, or personal details ever go into an AI tool

“We check before we trust.”

AI makes things up sometimes — even young students can learn to verify

“We use it on purpose.”

Every use has a reason — which also honors the real energy and water AI consumes

Know Your District's Rules

Four policy areas nearly every district covers — check yours before student-facing use

Student privacy (FERPA / COPPA)

No names, photos, IEPs, grades, or identifiable student work in public AI tools — district-approved platforms only.

Academic integrity & copyright

AI is a learning aid, not a ghostwriter: disclose AI help, never submit AI work as original, and check licensing before publishing AI images.

Age requirements

Most tools require 13+. For elementary, that means teacher-driven use or district-managed accounts — exactly how today's lessons are built.

Misinformation & bias

AI invents facts, quotes, and citations, and can reflect bias — "we check before we trust" is a policy requirement, not just a classroom rule.

Keeping Creativity Central

“How do we keep AI outputs from all looking the same?” — specificity is the antidote

GENERIC IN, GENERIC OUT

“Write a story about a dog.”

Every class in America gets the same golden retriever.

STUDENT DETAILS IN, THEIR STORY OUT

“Write a story about Mochi, my
three-legged dog who's scared of the
vacuum.”

Only one kid on Earth can write that prompt. That's the creativity.

Teach students to feed AI **their** details — their pets, their neighborhood, their imagination. The tool amplifies what only they know.

THE BIG IDEA

Students as AI Directors, not just AI users.

AI can brainstorm, draft, visualize, and give feedback — but the student stays the designer, the decision-maker, and the critical thinker behind the final product. From K–2 to graduation.

FAQs

The questions every workshop asks — answered before you have to

Do my students need accounts?

Is this really free?

What about district policy?

Will this replace writing instruction?

How much prep time does this add?

What if a tool changes or disappears?

STAY IN TOUCH

Ashley Sullivan

CEO, KidzPrep Education

■ **Email** kidzprep@gmail.com

■ **Phone** 848-628-4305

■ **Community** www.kidzprep.com



<https://www.skool.com/kidzprepai-3295/classroom>



Thank You

Questions, stories, and skepticism all welcome.

kidzprep@gmail.com · toolkit link in your inbox tonight

@CSTANJ

@CS4NJ

#CSPDWeek2026

#CompSciNJ

@csteachersorg



New Jersey CSPDWeek

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Award No. 2607763.