

Making SOTG work - A behind the scenes look!

Coronavirus has interrupted so many of the important rites of spring, but it did not stop the 2020 NFL draft this weekend (Go Steelers!). This year, team scouts, coaches, and general managers did not huddle in Las Vegas conference rooms negotiating trades. Players didn't swagger on stage high-fiving and hugging folks in their new team's jersey. There was none of the customary hoopla.

But the draft did go on. Virtually. According to most NFL general managers (the folks largely responsible for selecting draft picks), the true MVPs of this virtual draft were their tech teams. Their tech support made virtual draft boards, video conference calls, and the ESPN broadcast possible.

This makes me think about how the players on the SFS team are getting it done.

Technology Support Specialist Afandie Winter has been a steady presence in the chaos of the coronavirus pandemic. He calmly and methodically addresses the technical needs of our community, from teachers adopting new platforms for *School on the Go (SOTG)* to students learning to learn on their school devices. As our tech needs have changed dramatically in the past six weeks, he has been a nimble support to the entire community -- even meeting families at the Gaven St. gate for hardware swaps.

Then, there's Carly Reiter. It's hard to believe she's been the SFS Director of Design, Engineering, and Technology for less than a year! What an amazing "draft pick" she has been. As one of the masterminds of our distance learning program, she has motivated and collaborated and mentored and coached the faculty with enthusiasm, at first on campus surrounded by the teaching staff, and now from her kitchen table in the company of her cats, Finnegan Snuffaluffagus III and Squid Nelson. In addition to coordinating the format and technological requirements to make it run, Carly has helped to assimilate all of our survey feedback, host Google Meets with students (she led her first Science Friday lab with 5th graders last week), and continues to be an inspiration to us all.

Afandie and Carly are our MVPs.

Of course, it's a huge collaboration, with indispensable contributions from the Curriculum and Program leadership team (Maggie Weis, Nancy Nagramada, and Stewart Dorsey) as well as our consultants at Knowing Technologies. There would be no *SOTG* if it were not for this team, and I am deeply grateful to them. Looking forward to another week -- Go SFS Bears!