



From left, Erie Elementary fourth-grade teacher Vicki Myers, fourth-graders Nathan Boehling and Shiloh Robinson, first-graders Oliver Stevens and Madison Trombley, and first-grade teacher Molly DeBono, pose at the state Capitol building in Lansing Dec. 5 during the Student Technology Showcase.

Photo provided by Erie Elementary

## Elementary students showcase tech skills in Lansing

By: [Nick Mordowanec](#) | [Fraser - Clinton Township Chronicle](#) | Published December 18, 2018

CLINTON TOWNSHIP — On Dec. 5, at the state Capitol building in Lansing, a student technology showcase exhibited the best of educators and students. It was an opportunity for K-12 teams from about 56 statewide schools to show lawmakers, business leaders and others how technology can enhance teaching and learning.

The event was sponsored by the AT&T Foundation and the Michigan Association for Computer Uses in Learning.

Erie Elementary, of Chippewa Valley Schools, was involved, with first-grade teacher Molly DeBono and fourth-grade teacher Vicki Myers teaming up to offer some local students a unique opportunity.

First-graders Oliver Stevens and Madison Trombley joined fourth-graders Nathan Boehling and Shiloh Robinson.

First-grade technology is more of an introduction, DeBono said, with kids learning the basics: how to use a mouse, how to type on a keyboard and how to visit websites.

She said Stevens and Trombley, who created a multi-layered PowerPoint presentation on why Erie is unique, have a real knack for computer science.

“For (Stevens and Trombley), it was very basic just watching them in the computer lab,” she said. “These two students were always leaders in the lab.”

Myers said Boehling and Robinson showed leadership skills that coincided with their learning, going as far as caring for a laptop cart. The two students devised a digital leadership notebook that was later shared with their parents during a parent-teacher conference.

“The parents were just blown away,” she said.

Trombley said she loved showing off her work to adults.

“I was proud that I walked up to people, introduced myself and showed them my PowerPoint,” Stevens added.

Boehling said it was “challenging” discussing projects with not only adults, but also with other students. Robinson said that was half the fun.

“Not only did we present our projects, but we also saw the state Capitol building,” Robinson said.

DeBono said “technology is a part of our everyday life in the classroom, from using the smartboard to iPads to laptops to desktop computers.”

“Sometimes, these kids can troubleshoot better than I can,” she said. “They’re comfortable with it, they enjoy it, and it definitely gives them an opportunity to experience things that we never could when we were in school.”

Myers said that she has an easier time getting kids into learning by way of technology. That includes conducting basic web searches for history or news and current events.

Students don’t “need to be able to maneuver to be productive,” she noted.

“The skills we’re teaching them now will make them very effective citizens for the 21st century because employers are looking for people who can collaborate and know how to use technology, or fix technology themselves and not go outside and call somebody or manipulate it,” she said. “It’s just amazing what they can do.”