

Chris Barnabei Spoke at a TEDx Event



x = independently organized TED event

Chris Barnabei, librarian and technology integrator at the Career Magnet School (CMS), recently participated in a TEDx event in Lancaster and gave a speech entitled "Professional Educator, Amateur Coder."

"This was a tremendous honor because I have been a fan of TED talks for a long time. I've watched TED talks for years," Mr. Barnabei noted. TED stands for technology, education, and Design. It is a nonprofit organization where ideas are presented as stories in no longer than 18 minute presentations. The topics discussed range from global issues to business and science. TEDx events, which are what Mr. Barnabei spoke at, are independently run and share ideas in different communities.

The presentation, which told a story, was inspired around Mr. Barnabei's efforts to integrate coding which is the language used by computers, into the K – 12 curriculum. He also wants to raise awareness and support for teachers who teach coding.

"I felt that I did a solid job. I remembered all of my talk and really didn't fumble over words. I received a lot of positive feedback after my talk. Many attendees had questions for me or wanted to talk about my talk," Mr. Barnabei explained.

Prior to the event, he shared that he had to go through quite a process to get his presentation approved by TEDx organizers. He had to create an outline, then develop a round draft which eventually went through four rewrites, and finally create a script, memorize it and keep it under 17 minutes. Mr. Barnabei shared that he was allowed one cue card, but he did not have a teleprompter since the presenter is supposed to interact with the audience.

"I felt very relieved after my speech, especially since it went well. I was glad to give it early in the day; I was the third speaker. Overall, this was a great experience. It was a lot of work, but very fulfilling to get my message out. I also really enjoyed listening and talking to the other speakers. Many of them accomplished great things and had interesting stories to tell," Mr. Barnabei said.