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Kamila **Bekshentayeva**

Open for Design Technology/ICT teaching position;
Current: DT and ICT teacher; former: Senior Lecturer, Research and Teaching Assistant, Data Scientist, AI mentor
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"Be the change that you want to see in the world."

As an educator with a strong foundation in engineering, computer science, and design thinking, I view teaching Design Technology, ICT, and Computer Science as a powerful opportunity to inspire students to become confident, ethical, and creative problem solvers. Currently serving at Shanghai United International School, Qingpu Campus, I teach inquiry driven, Cambridge-aligned courses that integrate innovation, sustainability, and digital fluency.

My educational philosophy is rooted in the belief that learning should ignite curiosity, develop empathy, and equip young people to think creatively and act responsibly in a complex and interconnected world. I see design and technology education, when grounded in real-world inquiry, as a way to empower students to understand both how things work and why they matter.

In my middle school classes, students engage in hands-on projects that connect theory to tangible outcomes – whether through 3D modeling, product design, coding applications, or exploring sustainable solutions. From CAD/CAM 3D printing and eco-friendly drawbots to web development addressing cyber safety, my curriculum fosters creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. These experiences help students develop resilience, teamwork, and a sense of responsibility – qualities I aim to nurture in every learner.

My teaching practice is shaped by project-based learning and design thinking. I encourage students to explore, prototype, and iterate, cultivating curiosity and confidence in tackling complex challenges. I emphasize experimentation and reflection over perfection, helping students see failure as a valuable stage in innovation. I prioritize inclusive and differentiated instruction, using visual scaffolds, hands-on tools, and multilingual support to ensure all students, especially English language learners, can thrive. In ICT and Computer Science, I embed AI literacy and computational thinking into the curriculum. Students develop fluency in coding, data management, networks, and digital systems, while applying these skills through collaborative projects. Grade 8 students explore supervised and unsupervised learning, classification, and clustering using Python libraries such as NumPy, pandas, and scikit-learn. They analyze real-world datasets from Kaggle and design AI-driven solutions to address local and global challenges.

Beyond formal lessons, I foster leadership and community through mentoring. As a Girl Scouts leader and STEM mentor for initiatives like AI4All and Technovation Girls, I have guided young innovators in coding, app development, and service projects. These experiences reinforce my belief that technology education should cultivate empathy, communication, and global awareness alongside technical proficiency.

With a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering, a MASc in Engineering Science, and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education, I bring academic rigor and practical expertise to the classroom. My prior experience in industry and university teaching – particularly in data communications and information security – enables me to connect classroom concepts to broader technological landscapes and future career pathways. My goal is to help students see technology and design not merely as subjects, but as mindsets for creating meaningful, human-centered change. I would be honored to bring this perspective, along with my professional experience and commitment to inclusive, forward-thinking education, to your school community.