

Future As a Learner Essay

For the past 2 years, I have been a part of the Michigan State University Educational Technology Program. I decided to get my masters to widen the grade levels and subjects that I was able to teach. However, I have since gotten a new teaching job and changed my reason for being in the educational technology program. I now teach grade levels and subjects that are part of my undergraduate major. I am now trusted with ample amounts of technology due to the 10.1 million dollar bond that was passed just over a year ago in my school district. I am now determined to use and learn new types of technology in every class that I teach and with every student that I help.

Students are not only motivated by, but pushed to learn in new ways that they wouldn't have been able to without technology when they have technology introduced into their educational learning. I have found that technology helps my students calm down when they are having a meltdown and puts them into a different "world" in order to take them out of the stressful situations they have to deal with. Technology can also be used to put them into these different "worlds" in order to have them practice using strategies to deal with behaviors and emotions they would usually only deal with when they are in unsafe environments. I am able to create environments for my students in a safe classroom with myself and the student in order to give them tools to calm down and practice their stress free techniques.

For the next three years, I will be trying to learn how to utilize the technology that has been given to me to use in my classroom with my students. I will go to professional developments, search the web, ask other professionals, and simply play with the technologies. Using and trying the technology given to us is one of the best ways to learn them. I believe that not only can I learn by trying these techniques, but my students can as well. I will have my students search the web, ask others questions, and play with all the technologies I have available in my classroom. I am lucky enough to have computers, a SMART Board, Response clickers, an iPad, iPods, calculators, an Elmo, and much more. My students should be able to know how to use each of these technologies in order to be successful in their general education settings and in their outside lives. Teaching my students to use these technologies will help to motivate them and encourage their love of learning.

I will make sure to use what I have learned in all of my classes in the MAET program and incorporate technology appropriately into my lessons. I now know that just using technology isn't effective in teaching technology. As an educator, we need to make sure that the ways we are using technology is the most effective and easily usable. I have learned that adding technology into a lesson that without understanding how the technology can be most effective is making the technology pull the whole lesson less understandable and effective. Just as we wouldn't add addition problems into a lesson without them making sense, we wouldn't add technology into a lesson without understanding how it will be most effective.

I always want to push myself to use new things in my classroom. Using technology engages students, makes them excited, and keeps us using the latest and greatest information and ways to learn and teach. I always want to make sure that I am taking new classes, pushing the envelope, and trying to keep up with the times that people are using outside of the classroom. I like to bring the outside into

my classroom. Teaching students how to use the Internet and technology inside the classroom should show them how to use it at home, outside of the classroom.

Teaching my students how to use technology and the Internet will open doors for them that will make them more productive in the outside world. That is my job as an educator. I now know that I am not only in charge of teaching my students how to read, write, calculate, experiment, know their history, and learn how to deal with their behavior, but I also need to teach them how to use effective technology in order to be a successful member in today's society. I will make sure that I am learning current information about technology in order to keep my students up to date with their learning.