**Personal Technology Plan**

Technology is the new way of learning in the future for teaching in the classroom. There are a lot of advantages and some disadvantages when using technology in the classroom. I think students also get more involved when they are using technology in the classroom because it’s more hands on, interactive, and appealing to them. I have noticed personal that if you give a project and the students say “Can it be done on the computer or do we have to write it?” I notice in my room at least 80% percent of my students will do it on the computer rather than writing it on paper. The students who choose to do it on their paper are ones I know don’t have a computer at home or aren’t as strong in using technology yet. Eventually I feel all students no matter what their ability level is will be able to use some type of technology whether it is a computer, IPOD, Video game, talk and type device, microphone, or any type of software in the future.

By having technology in the classroom you are giving students a new way of learning and making the experience hands on learning experience. Technology introduces students to new technology concepts and how to apply it in the classroom and in their studies. Students are introduced to PowerPoint, Word, Excel, Internet, blogging, email, digital storybooks, and many more programs and software in the classroom. Not only does technology help students with their school work, but it also helps students with special needs and opens a door to a new way of learning at their level and it is meeting their needs. In an article I read from the “Journal of Transforming Educational Technology” The article talked about the advantages of having technology in the classroom. It was talking about how technology changed the way people gather information and also how they communicate. Article also talked about how students’ writing is improved because they are using different Word documents, blogging and using different VoiceThreads to write. Students who are ESL also gain a lot from using technology in the classroom because it can be translated and also they can learn a new language by using different software and by using different interactive Internet sites. I really enjoyed this article and how it focused on advantages of using technology in the classroom. To read the full article you can click on the link and it will take you to the article.

<http://thejournal.com/articles/2005/05/01/the-advantages-of-using-technology-in-second-language-education.aspx>

Some people think that technology is taking over in the classroom and students are not learning the basic skills of learning with just a pencil and paper. It amazes me that there are educators out there that don’t believe in having technology in the classroom. One major reason I feel that teachers don’t want technology in the classroom is that they don’t want to be held responsible for learning how to use technology themselves and therefore they don’t want to integrate it into their classroom. There are some teachers in my district who will use minimal technology just because they don’t want to learn how to operate the software or what to do if something goes wrong with the technology. In one of our professional developments we just had we talked about how to integrate technology into more subject areas and a lot of teachers were against it because they said it takes away from the basic foundations of teaching. In our district we have technology people who come and fix our software; however next year we will be cutting back on this due to funding. That means that we will have to fix it our self or put in an order and wait for it to get fixed. For some teachers who are comfortable with fixing technology they will have no problem with this, but other teachers don’t agree this is fair because they will have to wait or have another teacher help them with their problem. Unfortunately due to our economy cutting back on technology funding is happening as well as cutting back on teachers, administrators, and custodians. When it’s all done and said the real reason is to make sure we are educating the students and make their experience a fun and hands on experience that they will never forget, hopefully we won’t continue to cut back, but hire more educators and keep technology in the classrooms.

Students in my classroom who have different learning abilities or different learning styles benefit a lot from using technology in the classroom. My two CI students take their entire science vocabulary test on the computer. They click on the sentence and the program reads it to them and then they click on the right answer. This works great for them because it is meeting their needs and also is helping them with their fine motor skills while they are learning about a certain topic. My LD students in my room also use technology to help them read or break down certain science and social studies topics to their learning level. So by having technology in the room is not only helping every student, but also meeting the needs of certain students who struggle with concepts or with learning in general.

My very first year of teaching I had no technology at all in my school so I taught as some people would say “the old fashion way”. Last year when I started teaching at a new school district I was so overwhelmed at how much technology was in my room I simple didn’t know what to do with myself! Every classroom has a document camera, LCD projector, wireless microphones, laptops, and students take technology class.

Last year when I taught second grade my class was very good at computers and had very good typing skills. As a result of that my kids made second grade memory books on the computer. Every month they would be given a topic and then they wrote about it and found a picture on clip art to go with that topic or they brought a picture in to be scanned and put into the memory book. At the end of the year I printed them off and a parent laminated them for every child. It was an awesome keepsake as well as you could see how the student’s grew throughout the year. I called our own classroom year book full of memories. Since that group was so good with computer skills I also entered my class in the digital storybook contest for Michigan Social Studies Curriculum and we took second place. Students did the work and I put the storybook together on IMOVIES. I loved working with this program as well as watching the students learn from the experience. If you would like to view the finished product you can click here: <http://www.mcssmi.org/index.php/events/digital-story-book/2009winners/83-2nd-grade-timelines>

This year I am teaching fifth grade and I teaching Science and Social Studies. My last Science professional development we focused on how to integrate technology into each of the Science kits for grade fifth through eighth. This has been a huge project for me that I have taken on for the fifth grade team, as well as I am also doing this for my TechQuest assignment. I have found a lot of websites and resources to use for integrating technology into the Science kits. Some of the technology I have already integrated into my lessons and it is going really well. The students are engaged more in the lessons and also I feel understand the subject matter better because of the extra things I am showing them. In Social Studies this semester we are going to be working on the exploration of Christopher Columbus. This week the students were broken up with partners to make their own PowerPoint presentation on the topic. Each day this week during their Social Studies time students worked on laptops to gather information about their topic they were given. I have really enjoyed watching the students get engaged in this activity. I feel the reason that they are really into this project is because they aren’t just reading out of a book, but going online to gather information and then putting it into a presentation that they will be proud of and at the same time they are learning something new about the topic.

I feel overall I do a good job of trying to integrate technology into the classroom and also into my lessons. Sometimes it is hard to fit a website, software, or short video clip in with every lesson I am doing because of time or because of technical difficulties with the technology. In the Bransford article they talked about the five ways to explore technology in the classroom they are bringing exciting curricula based on real-world problems into the classroom; providing scaffolds and tools to enhance learning; giving students and teachers more opportunities for feedback, reflection, and revision; building local and global communities that include teachers, administrators, students, parents, practicing scientists, and other interested people; and expanding opportunities for teacher learning. ( **[How People Learn: Brain, Mind, Experience, and School](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=6160) (1999)** I think that some of these five ways are used in the classroom I can say myself that I use world problems to enhance their learning experience, give them feedback on what they are doing and also include my colleagues and principal to come and see what is taking place in my classroom. It is important to have students relate to real world problems and by bringing technology into the classroom to help them expand will help them grow as learners. Technology to me makes students grow into better learners and produce quality work that they are proud of.

There are many ways that I can still enhance my technology use in the classroom and learn more about how to integrate in the classroom. At the beginning of the school year we fill out a technology plan on goals we want to achieve in the room, for ourselves, and for parents. I filled the plan out and I put it into the three categories below to show ways that I am going to achieve technology in the classroom, for myself, and for parents.

**Goals for Technology in the classroom:**

1. Having students use wireless laptop’s in the classroom at least once a week. By setting up a scheduled time each week to work on a project, research a topic, or write stuff out on Word to enhance their computer skills.
2. Using my wireless microphone more often to assist students with special needs and to have students hear me more clearly.
3. Presenting more students work and having students come up and presenting their own work
4. Students looking at their grades on PowerSchool

**Goals for myself in the classroom:**

1. Integrating technology into my Science Kits.
2. Updating my classroom website monthly and try updating at least two times a week.
3. Attending professional development in one area of technology for the upcoming school year.
4. Making more WebQuests for my classes and having students being able to use them in the classroom.

**Goals for Parents:**

1. Giving parents the opportunity to learn about the technology we are using in the classroom.
2. Think it would be great if ever parent had an email address and we are also able to communicate to them through email in case we can’t get a hold of them on the phone.
3. Having professional development for parents on how to use the computer basics.
4. Think it would be a great idea if we could also have a technology night at school where students could present their presentations and parents could walk around and view what the students are doing in the classroom.

Attached is my classroom website

<http://ms.harpercreek.net/class_profile_view.aspx?id=392b6729-d1cf-4cba-8b8e-53334f15ec78>

Some of the goals that I have listed from above I am currently doing in my classroom or on my

own to gain better knowledge in technology. The one thing that I am still working on is incorporating

more technology for parents to use or for parents to learn about. By informing parents and students

about technology and the importance of it I think will help them gain a better understanding of how to

apply technology at home or in the classroom.