

Personal Technology Plan

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Technology can be both a benefit and a cost in education. The world is advancing in technology faster than teachers are able to use it in their classrooms. Fortunately, teachers today are open to learning new technologies and implementing new ideas into their instruction.

There are many ways that teachers are using technology every day. For instance, using an online grade book. This technology is beneficial because teachers can access their grades anywhere. Teachers are able to save time and paper because they can simply access the internet to get a grade or enter a grade. Grades do not need to be calculated by hand anymore. Teachers don't even have to fill in grades on report cards by hand anymore; they can simply click "print" and report cards are available to them. Another example is document cameras. They are more than just a fancy overhead projector. They can be used as a scanner, a video camera, and much more. When plugged into the computer, the projector becomes a massive monitor. Students can watch videos on the projector screen much more easily than they can on a TV screen.

Technology is also a cost in education. Figuratively and literally. Obviously, technology costs money. This is fine for some districts, but in others, they just do not have the funds to keep up with other districts and new technology in general. Their students are not getting the "same" education as the students in the districts that can afford to purchase the latest new thing. While they are getting the same educational information, thanks to GLCEs, they do not have the advantage and ease that other students have. Some districts have computers that are so old that they cannot handle programs that newer computers can. And software is getting more advanced, causing schools that do not meet the technological requirements to be unable to use them. Some computers are so old that they crash or freeze up when too many programs are trying to be accessed.

In my ideal situation, all districts and schools would have access to the newest technology. We need to give our students an edge in the real world. We cannot have our students graduating from our schools and then having to compete with students from other countries, even other states, that have given their students opportunities to use technology in new and innovative ways. I would like to see all students using technology each day in the classroom setting, not just in the computer lab once a week. Computers need to be available to students on a regular basis for more than just typing reports that they have written in class. There are so many programs, websites, WebQuests, blogs, etc. available to students. They just need the resources to access them.

Currently in my own classroom, I am using a document camera. I am able to project images onto a large screen for students to see. Images come up in color, not in black and white like with traditional overhead projectors. I have implemented the use of a [WebQuest on bats](#) that I created in CEP 811. My school only has one computer lab, so I take my students over at least once a week to work on math skills, spelling skills, or science concepts using the internet. I am able to use the lab more often, but being a newer teacher, I am still trying to balance teaching all subjects each day. I hardly have time to find new ways for my young (second grade) students to use the internet. Also, with my students being so young, and me being new to teaching the younger grades, I am sort of unsure of what my students are capable of with the computer. I use Microsoft Office frequently to create my own materials for my students to use in the classroom, and also share the materials via email with my colleagues.

This year I teach second grade, however, I believe that next year I will be teaching an older group of students. I want my students to be able to access technology each day. I will contact the technology staff in my district to ensure that I have computers in my classroom that students can use both individually and in groups. I would like for my students to be able to answer questions for me on the computer, via wiki or blog. Then I can access their answers from home, another computer, any time of day or night. Students will be able to fill those out at home, provided that they have internet access. I also want my students to be able to access

items such as WebQuests easily. To do this, I will set up a page online, such as a [Protopage](#), that lists websites and their links for students to be able to easily access.

In order to do this, I need time. I will find out soon what grade I am going to be teaching, and as soon as this year is over, I will have to begin researching how to set up the materials that I will need. I will start working on WebQuests based off of the Michigan GLCEs that are available at the Michigan Department of Education website. I will access my districts pacing guides that tell me when to teach instructional material. From there I will be able to think about how I can implement technology into my classroom. Over the summer, I will look into information on wikis and blogs and how to set them up for a classroom to use. I will look for websites that link to the subject areas that I will be teaching and add them to a page such as Protopage.com.

I have a busy summer and school year ahead of me, but I look forward to it. I know that I can find and implement technology into my classroom in ways that will benefit my students not only for the school year, but for years to come.