

Life-Long Learning

I have always viewed myself as a life-long learner. When I was younger, I loved school because it meant I could learn new things and I loved the feeling that I would get when I mastered a new skill or topic. I do not like the term “perfectionist” because it implies that one can reach perfection, which they cannot. I believe that no matter where you are in life, or how experienced you are in something, there is always room to improve.

Since I am still new to my profession and excited for any chance to learn ways to grow, I am setting goals for myself to improve my professional abilities. First, I have been working on incorporating more technology into my science and social studies teaching, but struggle with the incorporation into my math lessons and therefore would like to learn more about technology for math education. Second, throughout my master’s program I have taken courses that will ultimately help me acquire an administrator certificate, but the completion of my program will not be enough to obtain it. Therefore, I would like to finish the courses necessary to obtain the administrator certificate. Finally, since I have been the new teacher in my school for the last two years, I have been the one learning from other teachers when it comes to campus improvement and lesson planning for my grade level. Therefore, I would really like to take more of an initiative as a leader within my school and try to find ways that I can contribute a new perspective.

Technology into Math

The ways that I have used technology in my classroom include using an overhead projector, using iPads to have students access a variety of websites intended to advance their knowledge, and teaching students the basics of using a calculator. I would like to learn about, and utilize the full benefits of, www.khanacademy.org. I have had other teachers tell me that the website offers a lot in the way of assisting students as they solve basic problems and real-world story problems. When students are confused, they can watch a video about how to solve a similar problem and then translate that knowledge to their current problem. Then, from my end I can monitor the growth of each student to determine areas of strength and struggle. I feel as though this would be a good first step to increasing the amount of technology into my classroom.

Administrator Certification

When I picked which master’s program I wanted to apply to, my number one criteria was that it be all online since I planned to travel out of Michigan to begin my teaching career. Then, as I picked a focus, I was intrigued to learn more about administration and educational leadership. I understood that the all-online program would not lead to an administrator certificate, but that I would only need a few extra classes on top of my program in order to obtain it. Therefore, I would like to look into the requirements for obtaining my administrator certification down the road as I continue teaching. I will look at <http://education.msu.edu/ead/k12/nsace.asp> and look for more courses that I can take to fulfill the requirement. This goal will take

some time to finish because I will plan to take one course every once in a while due to the fact that I do not plan to become an administrator for a while.

School Leadership

I have been spending the past two years of my teaching career doing a lot of observing and learning rather than taking a leadership role within my school. I would like to change that and find ways that I can contribute my skills and knowledge to offer new strategies or help my coworkers grow. One way that I can accomplish this would be to enroll in a workshop on leadership in schools offered by the Harris County Department of Education (<http://www.hcde-texas.org/who-we-are/divisions-and-leadership/teaching-and-learning-center/upcoming-workshops/>). I would also like to look into ways that I can incorporate my love for, and knowledge about, music and theatre into my current school, which does not offer many ways for students to express themselves in these manors.

I understand that these goals of mine will take some time to complete, if they can even be completed. Obtaining my administrator certification can be completed, but my other two goals are ones where there will always be room for growth and improvement. Therefore, I look forward to a future of learning and growing as I improve my craft of teaching.