

The Future of Ms. A

Soren Kierkegaard once said, "To be a teacher in the right sense is to be a learner. I am not a teacher, only a fellow student." To be a teacher is to be a lifelong learner, while also being a role model for each student. As an educator, one should be a reflective practitioner, constantly reflecting upon lessons in order to improve his or her pedagogy. With this in mind, I chose to be a student, furthering my knowledge base and understanding. I chose to attain a Master of Arts in Educational Technology. I am a lifelong learner; I am a teacher and student.

We live in a dynamic society where technology advancements, i.e. Web 2.0 technologies, play an integral part of conveying classroom material for the k-12 student. Therefore, it is imperative to learn ways in which to implement such technologies into my pedagogy. Through the Educational Technology program at Michigan State University, I have learned about an array of technologies to incorporate into my teaching and I have implemented many of them into various domains. Additionally, as a lifelong learner, I will continue to seek other ways of integrating these technologies in the future.

Certified to educate young minds in the realms of Kinesiology and Health as well as holding an NP endorsement, I have implemented learned technology at the elementary and secondary levels. I have used technology as a motivational tool for my students, and in turn, they are more engaged in classroom material.

At the high school level, I introduced a nutrition webquest, a PowerPoint StAIR to impart knowledge with respect to digestion, as well as blogging responses to various health prompted questions. Each of these tools played an integral part in differentiated instruction, allowing my students to embark on a Web 2.0 journey. They were motivated to comprehend material through another means of instruction—Web 2.0 technologies. Not only was this a journey for myself as an educator, it was a journey as a student. Having never implemented these newly learned

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technologies, I was a student with my pupils. I was learning with them. During instruction, there were situations or glitches that would arise. Together we would help one another, learning side by side.

At the middle school level, I was given the opportunity to teach 7th grade Information Technology. During this time, I added to the curriculum introducing technologies such as Google docs, Weebly website creation, as well as designing a 7th grade Information Technology online unit. Once again, I was able to implement technologies that my students had never learned prior to my placement as an Information Technology educator. Had I not chosen to further my education as a student, learning more ways in which to inspire and motivate young minds with various technologies, I would not have made as significant an impact on these eager learners.

At the elementary school level, teaching physical education, I was able to utilize a small wonder; an RCA digital camcorder. The digital camcorder was beneficial for both me, as a physical education teacher, as well as my students. As an educator, using the digital camcorder, I was able to review student assessments and provide immediate feedback. Students were able to benefit from visually observing a previously recorded assessment and, in turn, gained a greater understanding of how to improve. I was also able to capture still images of my students, which allowed me to analyze their form for various object control and motor skills. Both still images and recorded footage allowed students to increase awareness of their skills in order to strive for self-improvement. Additionally, the digital camcorder promoted visual literacy for the k-12 student. With the help of this technology, learning was enhanced. As an educator, I learned how to provide constructive feedback to my students with the help of video and still images. I was a student, learning how to be a better teacher.

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As a teacher who strives to build the well-rounded student, inspiring each pupil to give his or her best effort and strive for self-improvement, I am continually seeking ways in which to advance my pedagogy. I am a role model for my pupils, teaching them that, I too, am a student. I seek ways in which to strive for self-improvement and subsequently they reap the benefits. I live what I teach. Therefore, I am a student participating in various activities with the young adults in my classroom, while utilizing various technological tools. Teaching is a journey. A journey of introspection, reflection, and learning experiences that help to form who I am as a student and teacher.

My experiences in the Master of Arts in Educational Technology program have enabled me to not only further my learning as a student, but also reflect upon my teaching. I am extremely grateful for all of the technologies introduced to me and plan to continue using them in my future. I have become more confident as an educator when it comes to integration of technology. What once was a feeling of intimidation is now a feeling of intelligence and comfort. This program has changed my life as a learner and as an educator. It has helped me discover new ways in which to motivate and inspire students while speaking their Web 2.0 language.

“Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end.” These Green Day lyrics represent the closing of one chapter in my MAET student life and the beginning of my future as a teacher not afraid to impart knowledge using technology. I close the door to my masters program, yet open the door to many other opportunities involving improving my pedagogy. This is a new starting point in my journey of inspiring young minds. I will further my knowledge base and understanding by attending various educational technology workshops as well as take other courses that will enable me to broaden my intellect. I will continue to converse with fellow MAET peers, as each one of them has played an integral role in helping progress my teaching. As a

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teacher, I will continue to be a student, learning new ways in which to motivate, inspire, and instruct my students in an innovative manner. I am a teacher. I am a student. I am a teacher of students.