

A Digital Reflection

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Looking back on my original goals, typed out at the very beginning of last year, I entered my Masters in Educational Technology with high expectations. Not only did I have goals for myself; I ambitiously linked my goals to the success of my co-workers as well as my school district in a changing digital society.

I can honestly say that I have embraced change in education and the repurposing of technology to meet the needs of my students. Originally, I sought to engage my students with creativity and innovation. I believe I have done so on many different levels. My coursework has led me to create varied resources for my students that enrich my classroom instruction. I have an online math course that my students can use to further understand or supplement foundational math skills. Both my students as well as my parents have had the opportunity to take learning beyond the classroom walls with online courses, projects, and links to innovative resources. Furthermore, my students are using the technology we have access to in new and inventive ways. Laptops are inspiring collaboration; iPads are building friendships, and our iPod Touch is now used to take pictures by the weekly "class photographer." I realized that technology does not only have to be new to use it in new ways. My goal to engage students with technology, new and old, was a natural fit as I continue to piece together 21st century skills that will benefit my classroom.

My teaching team as well as my district has joined me on my educational journey throughout my coursework. I had big plans to support and learn with my colleagues as a part of this new digital society. My position as an Interactive Whiteboard Coach has led me to attend trainings and provide trainings in my building. I have also begun a line of Tech Tips that allow me to reach a larger audience with brief screencasts and online recommendations. My passion for technology has brought on additional and unexpected roles. I have taken on a morning math-tutoring program with technology new to the district. This position has occupied my time with learning a new platform, advertising the intended benefits online, and communicating its success. Unfortunately, my coursework and educational commitments have limited my consistency in extending the individual support I previously anticipated.

While I have tried to master my goals in the course of two years, I have to bring the familiar buzz phrase into question... a mile wide or a mile deep? Looking back I believe that I've cast a wide net over what is new and hot without really gaining a particular focus or familiarity. However, I am proud of my accomplishments and understandings that are sure to grow in two more years, and the years beyond.