Technology in the Classroom: How Teachers and Future Educators Can Be Prepared for Technologically Advanced Classrooms

Within the past several years, technology has taken a great leap in our classrooms. It has become a huge resource and addition to our classrooms. As stated by Todd and Darrelanne Sundeen, "Instructional Technology has been described as the use of technology for teaching and learning" (Instructional Technology for Rural Schools: Access and Acquisition. pg. 8). The ISTE standards were created to be a guideline and rule for teachers to follow on the way of enacting technology in the classroom. Overall, the standards have a great concept behind them. However, in placing a standard on technology, our goal for including it in the classroom is often swayed and altered. We need to be aware of what we incorporate into our classrooms because our main goal, as educators, is to prepare our students for the future in the best way possible.

The *International Society Technology in Education* (ISTE) standards, explain that effective teachers are required to model and apply technology as ways to design, implement, and assess learning experiences. Overall, the standards are set to establish involvement for technology in classrooms. The first standard category states that educators are required to "facilitate and inspire student learning and creativity." In doing this, we as teachers are needed to promote and model collaborative and creative learning. Secondly, the standard states that we as teachers need to "design and develop digital age learning experiences and assessments". In my personal opinion, this gives us freedom to make our lessons and classrooms very unique and creative to the needs of our students.

Thirdly, we need to "model digital age work and learning". By doing this, we need to be fully prepared and educated in technology. As teachers, we need to model the level of education that we want our students to understand and comprehend. For example, if we expect our students to be able to work an online website, we need to be able to work one in addition to being readily available to answer questions and concerns. A major issue with technology in the classroom today is that teachers aren't knowledgeable of the technology so that when they obtain it, they don't know how to use it's full potential. This factor can be very harmful for our students, as they are growing up in a very technological world and these skills could be very beneficial to them.

Educators also need to be aware of Internet safety and potential online problems. Several Federal Laws have been designed to impact the way that students might use the Internet. The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), was created in 1998 to help "safeguard children as they use the internet" (Promoting Responsible Use of Technology Resources – pg. 257). This act requires children who are under the age of 13 to comply with the guidelines relating to releasing personal information on the web. If students are using the web in a classroom, there are lots of harmful programs that need to be blocked or planned with limited access to. Viruses such as spam, phishing, malware and spyware are only a few of the issues listed in the article "Promoting Responsible Use of Technology Resources" (pg. 259). In addition to these types of Internet problems, there are many problems related to online interactions. These interactions can relate to name-calling messaging, creating a harmful website, inappropriate pictures or even impersonation and bullying. If we are to include Internet and computers in our classrooms, we must be fully aware of the dangers and take the necessary precautions that are required.

As teachers, we are required to "Promote and model digital citizenship and responsibility" as stated by the ISTE fourth standard. This means that we are to include and

make sure that the technology and learning experiences are available to every one of our students. We need to be able to adjust and work with students that are culturally diverse or who might have different needs. Each and every student is individual. In teaching, our job is to find a way to see every student in our classroom succeed mentally and educationally. We need to be aware of our students' differences and need to adapt our teaching styles around their capabilities. In saying this, we have the opportunity to open them up to so many different teachings styles and learning experiences through technology.

Lastly, as educators we are required to "Engage in professional growth and leadership", as stated by the ISTE fifth standard. As educators, we are to set the leadership example and vision for our classroom. We need to be able to participate in the community and demonstrate a way that technology can be used. We have the opportunity to assist and lead a child along their journey of learning and knowledge. By using digital tools and resources, we are able to improve our own experience and familiarity and assist the students in doing so as well. There are several students who have immense potential technologically, and will not know it without and experience in the classroom. In an interview entitled, "Gifted Students & Technology", Del Siegle talks about the way that "technology permits students to develop their talents at a higher level of professional sophistication at an earlier age".

Students now have the possibility to edit and produce movies, create webpages, make their own sound or music, and other vast programs. With technology advancing so much in our culture, students need to be prepared for the real world after schooling. By incorporating technology into the classroom, we are preparing them professionally. However, we must remember that technology is not the only way to teach a child. Students all learn in their own ways and technology is simply a gateway into possibilities for education. It is our responsibility as educators to make sure that our students learn as much as possible in the time they are with us in the classroom. In knowing this, we must be available for any kind of adjustment or change that is thrown our way. Even though technology is fairly new to the education field, it has so many benefits for students to gain knowledge and understanding. Overall, technology provides us with another tool and resource for which we can use with training and educating the future leaders of this world.

Works Cited

Siegle, Del. "Gifted Students and Technology: An Interview with Del Siegle."

Center for Talent Development. Neag School of Education at the University of

Connecticut, n.d. Web. 09 Jan. 2015.

Sundeen, Todd H., and Darrelanne M. Sundeen. "Instructional Technology for

Rural Schools: Access and Acquisition." *Rural Special Education Quarterly* 32.2 (2013):

8-14. Print.

"Promoting Responsible Use of Technology Resources." N.p.: n.p., n.d. 257-68. N.p.: n.p., n.d.

257-68.

"ISTE Standards for Teachers." *ISTE Standards for Teachers*. ISTE Standards, n.d. Web. 09 Jan.

2015.