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Educational Technology Philosophy Statement (Draft 1)

Delivering quality instruction is an artform that arguably will never be perfected; it should always be evolving due to two main reasons - lifelong learning and new technology . When used effectively, this new and innovative technology can transform what happens inside of classrooms and provide students with knowledge and skills that they will carry with them when they enter the world.

I believe students learn in a meaningful, relevant, and real-world context. Teachers must create classroom experiences where students are able to make personal connections between what they are learning, internalize it, and then apply to it solve a real-world problem. Teachers should design lessons that empower students to choose from multiple learning activities and create meaningful applications outside the classroom across subject areas. The successful student is able to recognize and value the differences in others' learning that they have to offer.

As a Social Studies teacher, I feel focusing on inquiry and curiosity will allow students to think critically about history and then help put the past in context. For example, if I am teaching students who have no knowledge of their community's heritage, how will they be able to understand the past and the role it played in shaping where we are today? To bolster students' knowledge and skills, I turn to G Suite, Google Geo Tools and virtual reality to make these connections.

Traditionally, K-8 students have a gap in geographic knowledge due to a lack of life-experience. To combat this, I created a year-long mapping project in which students use Google My Maps to map over 200 years of United States History. The benefits are twofold; the strengthen their geography skills and fine-tune their technology skills all at the same time.

Overall, It is my goal to increase in citizen awareness and hopefully inspire involvement in the community. After all, our current students are our future leaders. Essentially, because of the content knowledge they learn in my classroom, they will be able to apply it to any life endeavor. It's a constructivist approach. With constructivism in learning students gain knowledge through learning experiences. Since I believe life is one big learning experience that never ends, the more lessons that I design to give students these experiences the better.

I believe teachers should become facilitators of learning in their classrooms. Instructionally, teachers maximize instructional time to provide differentiation and personalization, and I feel the best way to do so is by leveraging the best technology to do so. Because students have different learning styles and needs, we must frequently formatively assess, adjust and differentiate. Quick checks for understandings, like a simple posted question or Google Form that allows a teacher to see every answer in the room is invaluable for this process. If teachers are successful in this process, then all students should be successful in some way because their needs should be being met.

This puts a huge burden of responsibility on me to stay current on the best educational technology resources that will bolster student learning. I have developed a strong professional learning network, mainly through Twitter and professional learning opportunities that have afforded me with many global connections. This community holds one another accountable and is constantly working to figure out what will make the biggest impact.