

What Now?

What is next for me? As I complete the end of my Master's program at Michigan State University, I have been thinking about where I will go from here. To be completely honest, I have not thought about this very much before now. I have always thought of myself as a lifelong learner. I am passionate about learning and I believe everyone has more they can learn. My goal has been to make it to graduation and earn my Master's Degree. I have learned a lot throughout my time at MSU. As I move on from here I have to decide what I am going to do with the information I've learned and how I will continue to learn about technology in the classroom.

First and foremost, I want to incorporate more technology into my classroom. Through my courses I have explored and learned about a lot of tools available. Once I finish my program, I will have time to lesson plan and practice using these tools in my classroom. I will be applying what I learned in the Master's of Art in Educational Technology (MAET) program in my classroom. I know some tools will work great in my room, and others will be a struggle. Applying the knowledge I have acquired will take practice and time. It will be a learning experience for me as I find what works and what does not work. Technology makes it possible to connect with students across the world. I would love to find way to connect my classroom to other classrooms or businesses around the world. This would allow me to expose my students to more than what is in our community. By using more technology in my classroom I will be able to prepare my students for their futures and push them to become problem solvers

and critical thinkers.

While in the MAET program, it was easy to stay up to date on the latest technology or research. Once I finish the program, I want to make sure I stay up to date with the latest technology and research. If I am staying on top of the new technology I will be able to keep it in my classroom. I plan to follow people and companies on Twitter who are connected to educational technology and research. These people include: Edutopia, Ted Talks, and Discovery Education. I will also use other sources such as Pinterest, and Smart Exchange to get ideas on how to incorporate technology into my classroom. Attending professional development conferences will also allow me to stay up-to-date with educational technology. I would love to attend conferences through Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL) and the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE).

As this program has taught me a lot, there are still things I am interested in learning more about. After taking a course in online learning, I was left with more questions. I want to find out more about online teaching. We have an amazing online program through our school and it has often intrigued me to find out more. Online learning allows students to take courses that focus on an area of interest that we might not be able to offer in our small school setting. It also connects students to others around the United States and can expand their views and provide experiences they would otherwise miss out on. I have worked very closely with the teacher in charge of our online learning. We have been finding ways to use online learning with my special education students. There are other

schools with successful online learning programs in the special education department. I would love to visit some of these schools to see the programs in person and find out how we can create a thriving program at my high school for my students receiving special education services.

Albert Einstein once said, "Once you stop learning, you start dying." To say the least, I do not plan on dying anytime soon. Although I am not certain what my future holds, I am certain I will continue to learn and evolve my ways of teaching. Educational technology is a passion of mine. Since the world of technology is always changing, there will always be something new for me to learn. As a teacher I believe in learning and I strive to learn more. If I can show my students the passion I have for learning, I hope they are inspired to become lifelong learners as well. I will continue to live a life of learning and aspire to get to that next step or goal whatever that may be.