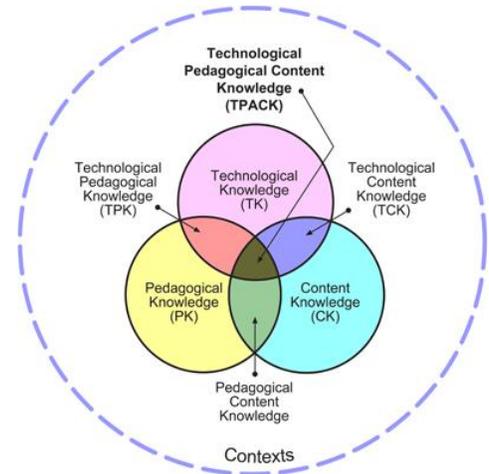


Personal Technology Plan

By: Christine Sherwood

1. A vision statement for technology in education, including both the promises and pitfalls, both now and in the future

Technology is becoming an essential part of our daily lives. As educators, we must incorporate technology whenever possible to help enhance our students' learning and prepare them for the future. I believe TPACK's three essential areas of knowledge (content, pedagogy, and technology) are essential when teaching children. In order for TPACK to be a successful teaching method, one must understand the content being taught, comprehend the technology tool being utilized, and present the information to the children in an effective way. I think there is a good balance between these three components in TPACK. One of the main goals of TPACK is to develop coherent experiences for your students.



There are many affordances and constraints when using technology in education. However, I believe that the promises definitely outweigh the pitfalls. The internet has provided an unlimited amount of information and self exploration and discovery. There are many programs that provide differentiation. These programs provide students with lessons and activities that meet their needs and allow them to work at their ability level. There is such a great variety of technology available which allows for an unlimited amount of creativity. Students have several options to express themselves. Technology has also made distant learning possible as demonstrated in this course. As a result, students can continue learning from their classmates, their teachers, and others around the world twenty four hours a day.

Even though technology offers a variety of benefits, there are also some pitfalls. For instance, it is expensive and not all schools or families can afford to have a variety of technologies. Technology is quickly changing and by the time you learn one technology a new and more innovative technology will be available. As a result of the quickly changing technology, it is hard for schools to always stay up to date with the most current technology since schools may have a limited budget for technology. In addition, teachers must have a deep understanding of the technology before appropriately integrating it into the curriculum. Obviously, if the teachers have not stayed current, their students may not be exposed to the latest technology.

Teachers need to emphasize the importance of researching accurate information from reliable sources. Today, anyone can post things on the internet without being reviewed or approved by an expert. Students cannot assume that everything they read on the internet is accurate. In addition, it is essential to teach children about digital citizenship. One needs to be aware of cyber bullying. Also, it is important to discuss privacy settings of the students' social networks. Children can be exposed to inappropriate advertisements and can easily find inappropriate information if they are not being supervised. Even at school, the firewall does not prevent children from reaching all inappropriate sites.

Students today are over stimulated by technology and video games. They find school to be boring, too slow, and not as exciting. Teachers need to create an atmosphere of challenge and creativity to maintain a high level of student motivation and participation.

2. How you currently employ technology in your work in education

I currently utilize technology in a variety of ways. My students and I always have many options of presenting information. Some of these include PowerPiont , Glogs <http://tems831.edu.glogster.com/christinesherwood>, Kidspirations, Digital Storytelling , or Flip Cameras. I also use some computerized programs such a Prescriptive Instruction to help my lower level learners work on skills according to their needs. My students also use a program called Study Island where they complete lessons, quizzes, and games that work on skills covered in our curriculum. When we place our students into groups according to their need for differentiation or remediation, my colleagues and I usually try to find computer games or activities that will support their needs. We also use reliable internet sites for our students to conduct research on a variety of topics. I recently created a Portaportal <http://guest.portaportal.com/csherwood1> in which I place links to valuable sites. My students and teammates can all access this page with my username.

I often communicate with my students' parents through email. I have created a group mailing list so I can quickly and easily send updates to my students' parents. My school also has a website that contains important information.

There are many ways in which I collaborate and communicate with educators in my building and county. Email is used daily by our staff members. Our school also has a Blackboard site in which our IRT (Instructional Resource Teacher) places many valuable resources. I belong to a 5th grade science wiki site http://wakeelementaryscience.pbworks.com/?_ci=15052.GidYVc-2 in which there is a variety of resources for the four science units we teach. For instance, they have posted all the important vocabulary words and their definitions in which I then created flash cards for my students. It also has links to vocabulary hangman <http://www.quia.com/hm/657182.html> in which a teacher in our county has created as a review for students. I use this wiki often to help support my students learning. Our county also has a

website called CMAPP that includes our day by day curriculum for each grade level and every subject. It also includes many resources that support our curriculum.

I believe I have implemented a great deal of technology into my classroom instruction. However, I want to continue to expand my knowledge of technology so I can teach my students the latest technology. I prefer to expose my students to as many new technologies as possible early in the year so they can utilize and improve their skills throughout the school year. I also want to incorporate lessons on digit citizenship. In addition, I will continue working on and expanding my class Wiki page so I can begin implementing it with my students and their parents. Next year, I would like to have my students begin the year with using my class wiki page. I am currently taking a class called Teaching Mathematics with Technology. I want to begin using the websites and resources I have discovered in this class in each of the strands I teach. My goal is to have my students work with technology at least once or twice throughout each unit.

3. Your own plan for enhancing and increasing your use of technology in your work in education, including a timeline with required own learning and skill development

‘We cannot change how our students learn until our teachers are equipped to teach in new ways. It is unreasonable to expect that our students will ever gain the skills and knowledge to succeed in the 21st century if they are taught primarily by educators trained using a model developed in the 19th century’ (Creating 21st Century-Ready Teachers, School Reform in the New Millennium: Preparing All Children for 21st Century Success , p. 10). I strongly agree with this quote taken from “Creating 21st Century-Ready Teachers”. Teachers need to be continuously learning in order to teach children the most current skills they need to be successful in their future. Summarized below is a timeline of my plan for enhancing and increasing my use of technology in my classroom.

Month	Goal/Plan
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have learned a great deal from this class. I will reflect upon what I have learned and being planning and integrating these technologies into my lessons. • Continue learning from CEP 805 Learning Math with Technology.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will complete CEP 805 Learning Math with Technology and will take those interactive websites and place them into my math curriculum. • Begin Capstone course ED 870. I will hopefully continue to learn about technology throughout this course.

June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue learning from ED 870 • Work on class wiki page
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue learning from ED 870 • Work on class wiki page
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete my education from ED 870 • When the school year begins, I will sign up for professional development opportunities in which I can continue learning about technology and 21st Century Skills. • My students and parents will begin the year using my class wiki page. • When I create my Personal Growth Plan for my school district, I will include a technology goal for the year.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will expose my students to as many new technologies as possible early in the year so they can utilize and improve their skills throughout the school year. I will be using the school computer lab as much as possible to achieve this goal.
Rest of School Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My goal is to utilize technology at least once during every unit.