

Purposeful Use Of Technology

I was one of those little girls who always knew she wanted to be a teacher and my dream of being an educator became a reality in September of 2013. After two years of teaching, I created a new goal for myself and decided to continue my education at Michigan State University (MSU).

I applied to be a graduate student in the Master of Arts in Educational Technology (MAET) degree program, and in my application I had to identify personal and professional goals I wanted to meet through my participation in the program. My personal goal was to be the first person in my family to partake in a master's program. I also wanted to achieve the goal of being a lifelong learner by continuing my education. As a professional, I wanted to gain skills to become an even better educator. I believed that gaining new knowledge and experiences would help me to enhance my lessons and make a bigger impact on students' learning. I trusted that MSU would support my learning about effectively leveraging technology in the classroom. My goal was to put students' needs first and I knew that participating in the MAET program would keep me current and would allow me to assist my colleagues. My number one goal was to make sure that all of my students receive the best learning experiences possible and I believed that continuing my education by pursuing a MAET degree would assist me in accomplishing that.

I am now in my last semester as a graduate student at MSU and I just finished my fourth year teaching third grade. It's a special feeling to look back at the goals I set for myself when applying for the MAET program and to realize that those goals have stayed consistent and are being accomplished. I learned so much and have met many amazing educators through the MAET program and I can confidently say that I have gained skills, knowledge, and experiences that have helped me to become a better educator. My goal was to effectively utilize technology to provide authentic and valuable learning experience for students and I kept that objective at the forefront of my mind while I was completing classes. I took the knowledge and skills I was gaining from my MAET program and applied it to my classroom to positively impact students' learning and that's exactly what I hoped I would be able to accomplish.

An aspect of a goal that has changed for me is my confidence assisting my colleagues. I have taken on a leadership role in my district and my experiences in the MAET program helped develop me to be a confident and qualified leader. The program strengthened my belief that student learning always comes first and that technology can be a great tool to help accomplish learning goals. I have seen how the use of technology can heighten the level of engagement in my students and I have witnessed just how creative my students can be using diverse media. I will always maintain the goal of being a lifelong learner and I will continue to put students' needs first and provide them with the best learning experiences possible.