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Action Plan

I find that learning about technology can be somewhat overwhelming. I grew up using computers, but technology grows and changes so fast that I feel that I just can’t keep up with it. I was honestly overwhelmed at first with how much stuff we’d be learning through this course and I didn’t know if I would be able to take it all in. Now, at the end of the course, I am no longer overwhelmed and I feel that I have learned a lot of valuable information about technology.

I honestly did not use a lot of technology while teaching before. Part of the reason for this is because I am a TOC, so if the regular classroom teacher does not use technology on a regular basis, then it is somewhat difficult for me to implement it during teaching. Another reason why I had not used technology was that I found it slightly intimidating. Technology is constantly changing and I am not keeping up with it, so I have always felt that I just don’t know enough about it to use it in the classroom. I am pleased to say that I don’t feel as intimidated by the thought of using technology in the classroom and I now know where I can go online to get any help that I may need.

One of the things that I aim to do in my future teaching is to use technology on a more regular basis. I have learned that it can greatly help all students because many of them are using computers when they are away from school. I know that I am going to have to learn more about the different things available to us as teachers that can help our students. I had really hoped that we would have learned about Smart Board during this course because it seems like something that would be great to use with a class, so I plan to learn about it on my own. I will also use the SETBC website to teach myself how to use many of the programs that are available to the students in our schools. When I have a class of my own I would like to purchase a document camera and projector. I do find them somewhat difficult to figure out how to work , but once they are up and running I love using them and I know that once I have used them a couple of times that it would be no big deal to use. I think that these should be in most classrooms instead of overhead projectors because you can show students the exact work that they will be doing through the document camera or you can connect the projector to a computer and explore things online with the class.

The wiki that I have created is one that I can use as a TOC or one that I can adapt to use with a class of my own once I get one. I plan to use my wiki when I am teaching in different classes and computer lab time is available. I think that it will be very useful because I have gone into a new class as a TOC and the teacher has not left a day plan. Days like that can be very difficult, but with this wiki I could simply take the class to the computer lab if there is available time, get the students to type in the URL (or help the younger students with this) and then they are free to explore sites that I know are safe for them to be on. Another thing that I plan on doing is to get some accessible books to keep in my TOC “bag of tricks.” I need to go through my personal library to discover which books I own that are available in accessible books, and then I will order the books from SETBC.

I was very surprised that there are so many programs and tools that are available for free. I have already added Wordtalk to my home computer so that I can see if it is an add on that I would get students to use.

My biggest “aha” moment was when we watched the “No Future Left Behind” video. It made me realize just how much students are able to do with computers and that we should not discourage this in schools. I think that many students would excel if we would let them use the technology that is available to them in school.

Through this course I have gained confidence in my ability to use technology in the classroom. I have also learned about the many programs and tools that are available to students. I can now see that the students in our schools can demonstrate their learning if we let them use the right tools and we should not discourage them from using technology if that is the tool that they need.