

## ***Technology***

Instructional Strategies: teachers know how to teach. The teacher understands and uses a variety of instructional strategies, including the use of technology, to encourage children's development of critical thinking, problem solving, and performance skills.

**Date Experience Completed:** Fall 2010

**Describe your educational artifact:** These artifacts are a collaboration of lesson plans from my student teaching experience. Through my experience I have been able to find new instructional strategies and materials to help my students learn

**Alignment: Wisconsin Teaching Standard 4: Instructional Strategies – teachers know how to teach.** *Standard four states that: The teacher understands and uses a variety of instructional strategies, including the use of technology, to encourage children's development of critical thinking, problem solving, and performance skills.*

The main goal for the agricultural education department this semester is to incorporate technology in to educating students as often as possible. I incorporate technology into my lessons every day. I help students think critically through online and paper evaluations. I have students make and present PowerPoint's to present to their peers. I also use PowerPoint's to lecture. To give online tests I use Moodle NICC which is a service provided by Keystone AEA to all teachers in Iowa. This website lets teachers put an entire class online so students can access the class they are enrolled in. Students can get notes, worksheets or tests they missed. In the classroom, there is also a cart of mac books. The mac books come in helpful as we use the computers daily for class assignments. Many students have begun to use Google docks which lets students work on the same document at the same time, Google docks also lets students work on their own document and automatically saves the document so they can work on it in a different location. Since I have Google docks I can view what students change or write on their Google docks and grade them at any time. Technology is changing the ways instructional strategies used in the classroom. Technology is increasing at a very fast past rate and I think it is essential for myself and other educators to stay on top of this change in order to keep up with students as well as teach those less fortunate the way society uses technology in everyday lives.

Many of my freshman and sophomore students started the year not knowing how to send an e-mail or use anything on a mac book from copying and pasting to saving a document. I feel all students should know how to use both mac and windows computers. I feel students have to teach themselves how to think critically when they have to research information and figure out how the mac books and their programs are different to windows programs. When I ask students to search the meaning of recess in parliamentary procedure they often just Google the word "recess." Well very, very few realize that they must look up "parliamentary procedure recess." This is just one simple thing that I have learned students can't critically to research and find the best information on the internet. I feel many of the lessons I give students make them research and think outside the box to find the proper answers. I feel students still need to be shown new instructional strategies and engaged in learning because they do not know all of the answers. Students need to be taught the proper ways to research online and how to mentally think of topics to research. If someone wanted to look up biotechnology and right a paper about it,

students could not just type “biotechnology” into the search menu. I feel students do not know how to search a topic like biotechnology and then find other aspects of the field like cloning, or Bt corn etc. I feel students have lost the aspect of researching information since there is so much available to them which also correspond to the fact that many students do not know what appropriate sources are to find the desired answer.

Student’s performance skills can be enhanced through the use of the Elmo projector which is available in the classroom. When a chicken egg was not developed all the way, the animal science class and I immediately dissected the egg. Students could help dissect the egg and see it projected through the projector using the Elmo. The Elmo is also used when dissecting other animals, displaying parts of engines, dissecting flowers or plants or any object that we are using in class. The Elmo is great because all students can see a larger image and can get the same experience because they don’t have to look over shoulders and worry about missing out.

When there are subs I give students assignments and use DVD players to show students modern marvel movies which are recent and many students are intrigued to watch. I also use the projector and online clips from YouTube and other websites to teach students material. I feel I use all the technology available to me to research, plan and carry out lessons in my classroom which are most beneficial to my students.

### **UW-Platteville - Knowledge, Skills, and Disposition Standards: KSD1.d Manages Classroom Resources**

During my student teaching experience, I managed classroom resources by using all the resources available to me. Not only did I use the technological resources available in the classroom but I used textbooks and resources available by the supervising teacher. Technologically I had a laptop, a cart of Mac book laptops for the students, a projector and an Elmo. I also used multiple internet websites some provided by the local AEA Keystone services as well as helpful lesson building websites. I also used free handbooks given by farm credit and the extension services to teacher students FFA, corn soybeans and wheat. Other resources I used were out of text books and manuals my supervising teacher had sitting on shelves. I feel I did an excellent job using all the resources available to me to teach the material to the students in an efficient way.

### **Secondary KSD Alignments:**

- KSD1.b- Demonstrates Knowledge of Students
- KSK2.b – Establishes a Culture for Learning
- KSD3.e –Demonstrates Flexibility and Responsiveness
- KSD4.a – Reflects on Teaching

### **Explain what you learned about teaching/learning from this experience:**

From this experience, I learned that teaching is more than standing in front of a classroom and lecturing. Teaching consists of finding ways to engage students in learning. I feel that I have found ways to engage students in learning by incorporating different types of teaching into the classroom. From large groups to small group activities, to hands on dissections and computer based test, I have realized students like change. For learning to be fun, there are times when

lecture is the only method that works. For the majority of the time students need group work, activities, or hands on methods to grasp the true concepts that are being taught.

**Explain what you learned about yourself as a prospective educator because of this experience.**

As a prospective educator I have made so much progress in becoming a teacher. In the beginning I looked and searched for sources to find information to teach the desired material. Through the little experience I have had, I have found helpful websites and ways to present material which has made me a better educator. The more I teach I find myself not just looking at PowerPoint's and reading the material I want students to grasp but I find myself thinking of examples related to the material I am teaching. I would like to keep improving upon teaching with examples as I become an educator. As a prospective educator I also find myself going back to websites and helpful books and resources found within the classroom I am teaching in. I feel that visuals and hands on activities not only help me teach materials better but my students get the hands on experience. I also feel my students can help their peers learn through their work in group activities and other interactive types of learning.