

On to the Next

As a teacher, there is always going to be a need for more learning. When I think about my future learning, I think about technology in the classroom, improving literacy, and classroom management. Fortunately, I was able to find some information on these areas I want to study more about. These future goals I have chosen for myself did just happen randomly. They all revolve around me wanting to be a better teacher, but the ideas came from something I learned in one of my courses taken throughout the program. Google Classroom is something I want to learn more about. Using technology in the classroom isn't going away. Getting students use to using it, along with the many great features it has, will help prepare them for the future. Improving students reading abilities is also something that is important. I don't consider myself just a Social Studies teacher, rather a reading and writing teacher who incorporates Social Studies content. Lastly, classroom management is an area that I feel can always improve. Having good classroom management will allow me to ensure success for my students and I will be able to focus on content instead of management issues.

The first area of future study is about Google Classroom. I learned about it in CEP 813: Electronic Assessment for Teaching and Learning. I was able create an assessment using it. It was the first time I had really used Google Classroom and saw the benefits it can bring. To further my education on Google Classroom, there are two texts that would be helpful. The first is 50 Things You Can Do With Google Classroom and the second is 50 Things to Go Further with Google Classroom: A Student-Centered Approach. I need to keep integrating more technology into my classroom, and this would be a great way to do it. If I can start preparing students and getting them use to using a course management system at a young age, it will be beneficial as they get older and eventually into college.

Another area of study would be improving reader's abilities in my classroom. I have a lot of students with different reading backgrounds in my classroom. I want to learn more about how I can effectively reach all my students, and really improve the scores of the lowest students. A great way to do this would be learning how to incorporate my subject matter into my literacy practices in the classroom. There is a course at Michigan State University that would be perfect for this subject. My classroom, a sixth grade Social Studies class, can be very heavy on informational text. Having a lot of different strategies I can use will be beneficial to helping all my students understand what they are reading. I learned quite a bit about reading and what can cause students to be at different levels as they get older in TE 846: Accommodating Differences in Literacy Learners. With this information and seeing the struggles students have with reading and the impact it has on them as they go through school is really important. Closing the gap and reaching all students can help prepare them for life after school.

One last area of future study would be classroom management. While my time in the program has improved my classroom management, I'm by no means a finished product. I'm not sure there is such a thing as perfect classroom management, but I want to get as close to that as possible. I believe that having good classroom management is essential to being a great teacher. It improves the culture of your classroom and can help ensure students have a safe and productive learning environment. I was fortunate enough to take a class on the psychology of classroom discipline, and while I learned quite a bit from it, I want to dive deeper into the topic of classroom management. The University of San Diego offers a program on effective classroom

management. I believe taking these courses that are offered and earning the certificate with it would help me improve my classroom management.

Looking at my future topics of study, I can safely say they are all because of what I learned in this program. Each topic comes from a different course, where I was able to learn enough to help me in the classroom and just enough to keep me wanting more. I think that by learning to use Google Classroom, improve students reading levels and learning more about classroom management, that will help get me to my overall goal, which is becoming the best teacher I can be by setting my students up for success in the future.