

Starting Out Basic

Looking back at my goals before entering the Master of Arts in Education program, they had to do with the students that enter my classroom. I wanted to learn how to be the best teacher I could be and figure out how to get the most out of my students. I also wanted to help my students reach their full potential, which is why I chose the program and concentration area of technology and learning. Technology is relevant and it is not going away; so learning how to use that in a classroom setting was going to be important in reaching my goals.

When thinking about my current goals, they are not the same as they were when I entered the program. I think that this has to do with how basic my original goals were. I still want to do my best make my students successful and reach their full potential, but I have ways of actually accomplishing this now. My current goals revolve around these topics but just more specific. I want to be able to become so immersed with technology in my classroom that other teachers are coming to me and asking how to do things. I don't want to be the one that is asking for help, but rather the one giving it. If that does happen, it will let me know my use of technology is close to where I want it to be.

Another new goal of mine is helping students improve their reading levels in my classroom. That falls under the umbrella of students being successful and reaching their potential. I have students with all different reading backgrounds come into my classroom. I see how far behind students can be when they come into my sixth grade room, and those same students are behind even more when they are in eighth grade. I want to try and close that gap as much as possible. I want to learn strategies that are the best for helping students who are behind grade level for their reading. The content in my room can be difficult to learn, and helping students improve their reading will go a long way in allowing them to understand what they learn not just in my class, but all classes.

When I think about my current goals compared to where I was when I entered the program, I think they changed because of my experiences in the classroom. I was still a first year teacher when I started and hadn't had much experience. After teaching these past few years and learning more, I have been able to really see what I want out of myself and classroom and not be so broad like my goals were originally. Goals should always be updated or changing as you learn more or accomplish one goal. Hopefully in a few years I have come closer to accomplishing these new goals and created some new ones along the way.