Reflection-Brashers

by [Nancy Brashers](http://campus.emints.org/user/view.php?id=3299&course=509) - Monday, April 7, 2014, 12:40 PM

      In integrating technology into my curriculum, I have learned that there are so many other ways to teach the standards that I need to be presented to the students.  The learning has been much more authentic and the students have been much more interactive with their learning. For instance, in math when learning about shapes, the lesson centered on shapes in their world, but we also read a book about a girl that found shapes in her environment, Africa. The students were able to compare the shapes, but they were also able to make inferences about the culture and compare their environment to the environment in the book. They were able to make connections and they noticed that many of the items that they found and took pictures of in their homes were manmade and many of the objects in the African story were natural.

     I have also noticed that in my planning of lessons, I am finding different and useful ways to utilize many new things that technology has to offer.  In working through my technology classes, I have learned to use different tools.  When I needed a place for students to go to in order to locate information from websites, I quickly created a site to house those websites so that the students could easily and safely locate information.  I am constantly finding new ways to teach standards and the children are engaged and learning.  When needing to teach them about poetry, I created a unit on understanding poetry.  I created a website on weebly. As I was creating it, and as the children were using it, I was able to create new pages to add to the site for the students to post their projects on when I saw a need for more pages.  The more I use technology, the more fluent I become and the more natural it seems to be for my students to interact with it.  I have really started to see the usefulness of it, and how to incorporate it into each day.

     Next year I plan to dive in with using technology right from the start of the year more often than I did this year. I am more comfortable with the use of it, and I am hoping to have more devices in my classroom.  The more that my students are exposed to it, the more they will benefit from the use of it. I also want them to be seamless in their use of technology so that the use of it does not affect the flow of learning. I have been able to incorporate more than one standard into each lesson where as in the past I might have just focused on one objective that I wanted the students to meet with a lesson.  In integrating technology and projects, students seem to be learning and collaborating more and getting more exposure to the skills they will need in the future.

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Re: Reflection-Brashers

by [Cami Hackmann](http://campus.emints.org/user/view.php?id=5296&course=509) - Monday, April 7, 2014, 9:31 PM

Nancy,

I also have noticed that when planning I am thinking of ways I can use different technologies in my lesson in a meaningful way.  I love your idea of creating a Weebly site for different units.  That's a great idea to organize units to make it easier for students to navigate and a great place to display student work!

I agree that the more I use technology the more comfortable I become with it.  It is so much easier to find ways to incorporate technology when I am comfortable with it and have the knowledge base to integrate it in a meaningful way.

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Re: Reflection-Brashers

by [Kendra Heier](http://campus.emints.org/user/view.php?id=5298&course=509) - Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 12:48 PM

Nancy,

I agree that it is nice to be able to quickly create a webpage or online site for students to use for research. Prior to eMINTS, I was always in awe of the eMINTS teachers and their ablilty to use technology in their classrooms. I agree that technology is much more "natural" for me and as a result is more "natural" for my students.

I also plan to start off next year differently now that I have completed the eMINTS training. I plan on creating some units of study over the summer to use with my class. I also like the fact that authenic learning allows for students to learn more than one standard at a time. I also think the collaborating aspect is very important to student learning. eMINTS education really does prepare kids for a future in the 21st Century.

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Full- and half-day workshops led by eMINTS staff, are scheduled across the state during summer 2014.

Cost only $89 for full-day or $49 for half-day workshop. Some discounts are available.

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