Three things that had the greatest impact of my view of an Emints class were the seamlessness, the ability to differentiate learning, and the use of project based learning.

As I observed the morning routine, I noticed that computers were used seamlessly.  Students as they came in sat down and started their work, but as part of their routine they got their laptop computers off the cart and got them logged in. They used their computers as a basic tool just as they use paper and pencils. They also used them as a support to their learning.

They went to the Envision site and took a quiz. Based on the results they were able to print their own homework. Homework was differentiated based on the results.  Some printed the reteaching, some printed the on level practice, and others printed the enrichment page. I like the way that technology allows for differentiation.  I also noticed that after they finished their work, they went on to other sites at their own pace to work on math that would supplement their learning. The students were constantly engaged in their learning.

Students in the classroom were doing a variety of research projects during writer’s workshop.  Some were researching animals, others were composing their own poetry or lists, and still others were researching Missouri history and creating projects to showcase their learning. I think it was really beneficial for them that their learning was based on their interests, yet it had merit.

Three things that I would like to implement would be the way that the teacher organized the classroom, the use of the learning resources, and the different ways she had her students share their learning.

I like the way that the teacher set up norms in the classroom.  Students were assigned a computer number so that they knew which computer was theirs to use and they were responsible for taking care of it and making sure it got put back where it belonged.  There were also two students given the responsibility of checking to make sure that all of the computers were put away correctly at the end of the day and plugged in to charge for the night.

The teacher had a bulletin board giving options of sites that they could use.  The teacher had it split with research sites such as world book online and discovery, creating sites like PowerPoint and iMovie, communication sites like the blog and skill practice sites such as IXL, tumble books, and Envision. The bulletin board gave the students some choices of sites they might need.  It also was very flexible in that new sites could be added as needed.  Students used the bulletin board to guide their choices.

During a share time, students shared what they were working on with their classmates, and they were given time to get feedback from them.  Projects were shared on the smartboard for all to see. The students were constructive in their feedback, and I think it helped improved the work and led to a better understanding of expectations.

I really enjoyed my time observing the classroom, and I think it will help me to use technology in my classroom more efficiently.