

A Learning Manifesto

by Emily Burk

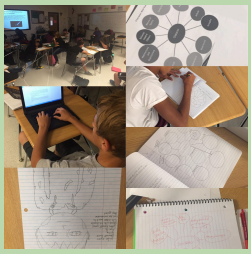
The Sky's the Limit with Educational Technology!

My Passion with EdTech



I am truly passionate about students learning in a way that makes sense to them as individuals in the world that we currently live in. I feel strongly that we owe it to our students to bring our best everyday with interactive and engaging educational experiences. To me, lifelong learning is an ongoing discussion which means connecting and collaborating with other educators is key to learning creative new ways to integrate technology. Creativity through digital instructional planning inspires me because I know that this type of learning inspires students to want to learn.

My Digital Learning Core Belief and Goals

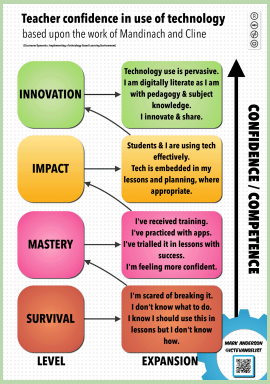




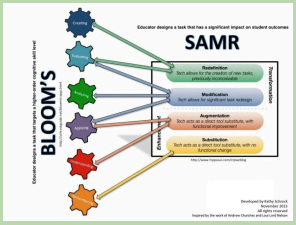


As an educational technology leader, my goal is to help educators seamlessly integrate technology into their curriculum so that their instruction is learner-centered and personalized. I want to help support teachers by providing helpful tips and tricks when it comes to technology integration. This way teachers don't have to waste precious class-time or family time outside of work hours trying to figure things out. I want to provide teachers with the training and skills necessary for helping their students build a "personal learning backpack" of devices, apps, and other resources that work best for their students' individual needs. I hope to help teachers and students discuss, think, discover, show-off, teach, evaluate, and create. If that means that I need to help teachers think of ways to utilize technology to transform their traditional lessons to allow more student choice which will lead to more student voice, then this is where I could start. Or it may mean that I help them redesign school learning environments to best incorporate technology into multiple learning zones so that each learner is met at their performance level according to individualized needs.

EdTech Considerations

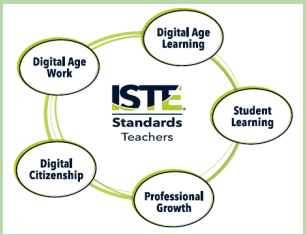


TPACK- I really like the TPACK infographic where it shows the four levels of "teacher confidence in technology." I believe that most teachers may fall in between the Survival and the Mastery level. Once a teacher gets to Mastery level, then they are more likely to quickly move on up to Impact. In our digital age, most teachers need to be planning and teaching at the Impact level, so as a technology leader, I will make it my goal to help teachers reach this goal and their potential to better serve their students.

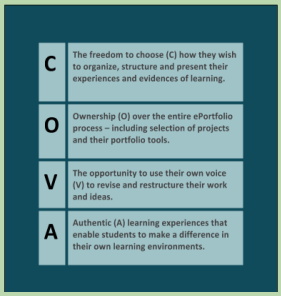


SAMR- I see technology integration as an instructional strategy. In my eyes, instructional strategies have been embellished and have gotten more engaging by way of tech integration. But with new technology tools being invented and introduced so frequently, how does one know which apps and resources are most effective? This is where SAMR model is important. As a technology leader, I want to work with instructional coaches and curriculum directors to identify the needs of teachers when it comes to instructional techniques. Then I will use the SAMR model to evaluate any new technology tools that could possibly serve to meet the needs identified.





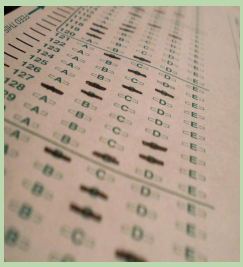
ISTE Standards- As an educational technology leader, I will let the ISTE standards serve as a guide to help me lead educators and educational leaders to transform and redesign schools, learning spaces, and classrooms for innovative digital learning no matter where they fall in their practices of meaningful, effective ed tech integration. As a technology leader, with visionary leadership, my goal is to stay current in my own professional growth so that I can best train educators in the most effective practices for educational technology integration which will enable them to create a digital learning environment that is effective and promotes digital citizenship. As their journey progresses, I want to be able to support educators in their efforts to develop professionally so they feel empowered and motivated to design and model digital-age learning and facilitate to inspire creativity in their students.

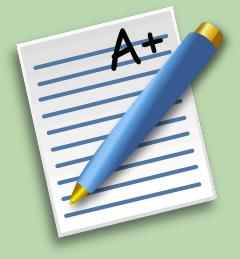


Cova- As an edtech leader, I will strive to use the COVA model because it is a lot like project-based learning where students have voice and choice. Having seen the ownership and productivity that comes from this type of personalized yet collaborative learning has made me realize how valuable authentic learning can be for students. So because I have experience with teaching this way, it of course appeals to me as I have seen such success in implementing it.

Education Right Now



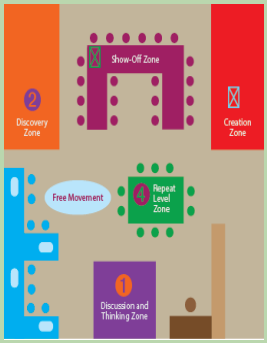




1. Many schools around the nation focus more on obedience rather than building relationships with students and customizing their educational practice around the learner.
2. Many educators are hesitant to move beyond traditional classroom models and textbooks.
3. The support of technology integration may lack financial support at the state or national levels leaving educators to pay out of pocket or apply for grants.
4. The trend toward standardization in curriculum and assessment runs counter to the ideas of differentiated personalized learning for students.
5. Accountability ratings pressure educators and students to perform well on standardized tests.
6. Standardized tests have led to a fixed curriculum often leaving educators choices of isolated test preparation on worksheets that lack creativity and can be disengaging for learners.
7. Test-focused instruction often leaves teachers and students focusing on the end grade of “pass” or “fail” which is not as important as the “process” of learning.

A Change for our Students

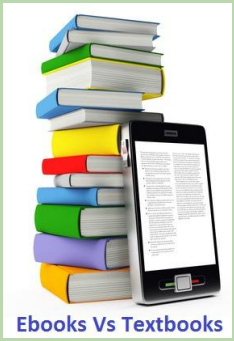






1. Make learning personalized and student-centered. Make it engaging and collaborative utilizing technology in an innovative way.
2. See the curriculum only as a starting point where standards are reworded into problem-based questions that are formulated by the teachers with the help of their students and solved by the students through project/problem-based learning answers to the questions lead to a product and not just an completed assignment.
3. Redesign facilities so that they promote innovative learning and teaching. Include flexible seating, digital learning centers and makerspace stations, as well a movable or sliding walls so teachers and students can adjust and free up their instruction and learning.
4. Make learning global so students connect with other students outside of the classroom which will help them see more purpose in what they are learning because they realize they are not alone.
5. Give students’ choices which in turn gives students’ voices which automatically makes learning differentiated with less teacher control and bias. Put learning in the student's hands! It is their plan, so let them lead!
6. Have students learn in a way that promotes collaboration instead of isolation.
7. And finally, embed work-related skills into all subject areas so students understand and feel a sense of purpose to the learning.

Challenges

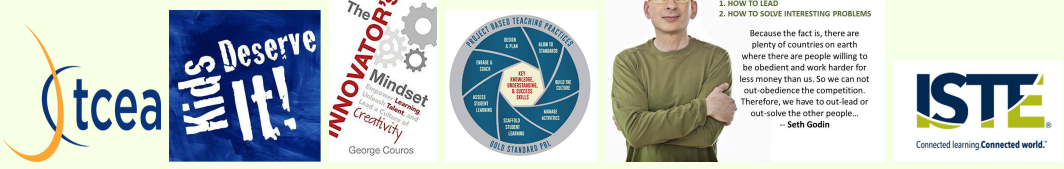




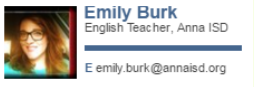


As a technology leader, one has to be realistic enough to say "no," not everyone is supportive of technology integration. Right now, we are in both a transitional and transformational digital-age. Just like with any transition leading to change, you will have people who may want to keep doing things the way they always have been doing them. We can see throughout history that change can disrupt because it pushes people out of their comfort zones. Technology is here and most likely here to stay. So as educators, we have a choice. We can fight against something that has become so much a part of our lives or we can embrace it, learn, and grow for the betterment of future generations. If we fight against it, continuing to instruct by utilizing the methods of the past, how will this affect our students as they prepare for the inevitable future? In five, ten, fifteen, twenty years, what will our students' careers look like? Probably careers that we cannot even fathom! What skills will they need? Will they need to read? Yes! Will they need to write? Yes! Will technology still be around? Yes! Will they need to design and code? It is highly possible! So we have to find ways of integrating technology and computer skills within every aspect of our curriculum. It is important, as educators, to seek out and embrace a shift in mindset about educational technology integration and then take action so future generations will be prepared to face an oncoming digital-age of career opportunities. With an attitude of growth mindset towards collaborative educational technology integration, who knows what our students will learn to create. The Sky's the Limit!

Inspiration and Resources



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