

June 19, 2014

### **My Future as a Learner**

On a daily basis, we are constantly engaging in conversations, analyzing the world around us, and exploring new things. All of these experiences are developing knowledge. I consider any additional acquisition of knowledge to be learning. Even though the end of this master's degree is here, my learning career is not. There are many possible pathways I might explore in regard to educational instruction, understanding others and myself, and technology.

Over the past five years, I have had many new technological experiences. I explored the world of online conversation through Skype, Google Hangout, Desire 2 Learn discussion board, and various other means. I designed a blog, a website, online scrapbooks, and many other creative online outlets. I became more skilled with Apple systems. I developed and taught a brief 2 week course in various free online resources to fourth and fifth grade students. Students were excited and engaged and I was thrilled to be sharing my newfound knowledge. However, I strive to find creative ways to incorporate these resources into my classroom instruction on a daily basis, especially for students who do not have technology resources out of the classroom. As much as I want to use online systems for projects, I need students to be able to work on projects out of school, in addition to in school, to insure successful and thorough completion. One learning path, I hope to explore is the inclusion of additional technology resources in the classroom on a daily basis.

After my second year of teaching, I was blessed by the opportunity to coordinate and supervise summer school for all students entering first through eighth grade at Black River Public Schools. I loved the opportunity to create and develop curriculum suggestions for all grade levels in math, writing, and reading. I truly enjoyed this experience all around. This inspired two possible future learning pathways for me to pursue. It sparked a passion for me to pursue a master's degree in leadership. At this time, I am not sure if this is something I would like to do on a daily and yearly basis. However, I enjoyed my role in summer school development. I also felt enlightened by the idea of pursuing an additional degree that would allow me to be more skilled with curriculum creation and implementation. I believe that I would like organizing and developing curriculum and units of study for a large age range.

I feel passionate that if a student is truly upset, he or she has the option to talk or write to me, or write or draw in a private journal about the situation. If the student is not disrupted enough to take emotional care of him or herself then typically I expect attempted engagement in learning. In high school, I wanted to pursue a future in elementary counseling. Since then, I have wrestled with this because I worry I internalize others' situations too much. I still feel like I do not separate well but I still have a desire to pursue counseling. I would not be surprised if I someday decided to pursue additional educational experiences related to counseling, either as a career pathway or for additional ideas for my teacher toolbox.

I enjoy talking and working with other people. Over the past five years, I had multiple collaborative experiences. I had the opportunity to have 3 high school teacher assistants and many undergraduate college visitors. I have joined multiple committee and development teams. I was blessed with two wonderful mentors and countless meaningful conversations. I was inspired and excited by these

experiences. I feel that collaboration is a strong way to develop and learn. I would love to pursue my knowledge of teaching pathway through collaborative experiences either through a co-teaching position, by having a student teacher, or through development teams and committees.

Learning through seeing can be a wonderful way to absorb deeper understandings. I would love to pursue an educational path focused on learning through observation by traveling and exploring unfamiliar areas.

As a teacher passionate about reading, I do not find personal enjoyment through reading. Fortunately, I have many favorite children's books to help redirect my answer when students ask me about reading. I would love to pursue my knowledge and education of the world around us by exploring more texts that will hopefully help to ignite a learning passion within me. I believe that literature can teach readers a lot about others and the world around us. I would love to pursue a knowledge quest through an enjoyable reading exploration.

There are an abundant of possibilities about what comes next in my educational journey. I know that I will continue to develop as a learner, regardless of where my path leads next.