I have always been that girl that liked to do things the, “old-fashioned way,” per say. When it comes to respect towards elders, going out on dates, or even the way I want to be respected by other people. However, I feel that it is difficult to take that approach when it comes to technology while we are in the 21st century. I myself will be the first one to admit that technology NEEDS to be a part of my life every day. The immense amount of hours I spend on social media is a bit ridiculous, I may admit, but what if we could use that passion as educators to fulfill technology within the classroom? As future teachers, whether we would like to admit it or not, It’s going to come about. This class has given me plenty of practice and an immense amount of tools to use within my future classroom. In this following philosophy, I will share my views on technology for the effectiveness and success of both my classroom and my future students.

As we have all seen throughout this course, technology simply needs to be implemented within the classroom. Even during my few short years completing field experience within different schools, I have seen technology play a huge factor in learning. Almost every classroom is occupied with a SmartBoard and many computers (usually MacBooks of some sort.) Many lessons are now taught on the SmartBoards, and with thousands of options to use within them, the teaching strategies are endless. They are also used to keep the children occupied while playing learning games and such, along with the computers in the classroom that can be used for stations. Not only is it important for teachers and future educators to learn the importance of technology and how to use it, but students as well. It’s a rather simple way for great, effective teaching!

I will of course implement technology within my classroom and lessons as much as I can. I will make sure that SmartBoards and computers will be used on the daily, and if I get the chance to buy and iPad or the school provides me with one, I will use that as well. The immense amount of educational aps on the iPad is wonderful for all ages and learning levels of students! I think it’s wonderful! Bullet point number three really stood out to me as well. During the spring semester of my freshman year, I completed my field experience at Marlington Elementary. Within the classroom they had a surround sound speaker system assembled, and the teacher would wear a microphone so the children all around the room could hear the lesson and directions consistently. When I asked about it, I was told that it was efficient in helping the children hear better, and that way the teacher was not yelling over the students if they got too loud. I wasn’t sure how effective it was until I completed my next field experience and noticed how difficult it was for the teacher to communicate with the students at times. It was also a great way to diffuse any background noise or commotion coming from outside or in the halls. I would LOVE to have something like that in my classroom! It would prevent so much commotion and unnecessary yelling that takes place.

I personally did not know that technology even had real standards, but I guess that would make sense in the world we’re living in today! If I had the opportunity to look at and analyze those standards, I would make sure that my students knew them and I would continue to apply them to my teaching. I believe that it’s just as important for students to succeed with technology as much as any other subject. With the generation they are growing up in today, I feel as if so many children are surrounded by it at such a young age, it may not even need to be taught, rather practiced and fulfilled to the greatest extent possible. As seen from my own experience, many children, even babies, have grasped the concept of technology already as if it’s a second nature to them. Therefore, I feel as if we should assess students using technology as a whole subject within itself. Especially considering the impact it can have on their learning.

However, I am sure that some of us future educators will come to realize that not all schools will have the finances available to provide each and every classroom with these important tools. In that case, I’ll be honest, we’ll need to learn how to work with what we’ve got. A teacher can always go beyond her necessary needs to supply his/her own classroom with and iPad or computer, but that calls for damage risks, and that’s a lot of money to sacrifice. Some place give out grants, rewards, and scholarships for the chance to be win or be rewarded for these devices. If you began to teach at a school that had and over abundance of technology, I would make sure to use it all to the best of your ability! That’s a blessing to have!

Not only is technology efficient within the classroom for learning purposes, but it is also a wonderful way to provide great communication between others. For example: from parent to teacher, teacher to student, students to other classmates, and even a school district to the community as a whole. I think it’s important that technology reaches beyond just the classroom level, to the school, to the community, and to the parents and families as well. Almost all parents, and many students depending on their ages, have cell phones, Facebooks, and of course e-mails. The ways that teachers can communicate with their students, and even the children’s parents, is tremendous. Although there are some solid ideas out there on how to create specified family/community/classroom groups and pages for effective notifications and communication, technology is, and will continue to, change as the years go on.

As future educators we need to realize it’s potential and continue to grasp it as it changes. I may be one who doesn’t appreciate change very often and stepping outside of my comfort zone, but technology is something that I realize I will need to accept as it grows and hold on tight! Many ‘non-believers,’ feel as if too much technology is a bad thing, maybe so. However, I have also seen its incredible potential within the classroom, and when it comes down to it, I cannot help put argue towards the growth of it. Technology can truly be a wonderful thing!