

Leslie Cuti
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The educational technology paradigm at Amite Elementary School at the present time is that technology is a useful and worthwhile way to educate students. The majority of the teachers utilize some form of technology in their classrooms. There are a great number of teachers who use power point presentations, on-line video clips, digital cameras and educational software to enhance their lessons. Most, if not all, of the teachers have taken computer courses offered by the technology department.

The teachers react positively toward the use of technology. In general the teachers want to use it to their and their students' benefits. However, there are still some teachers who are afraid of technology and would rather do things the way that they have always been done.

The only negative aspect that I see is the under use of technology. There are teachers who have the ability and knowledge to the technology in some very powerful ways but do not. For some it is a lack of time to prepare technology rich lessons. For others it is the lack of needed equipment. Then of course there are the few who simply do not see the value at all.

The basic change in paradigm that needs to occur is the assumption that technology based lessons are more time consuming to prepare than

traditional lessons. Teachers need to be given strategies to help them implement technology now – on a daily basis. Teachers need to utilize technology and experience the difference it can make. After feeling the success the teachers should then be given the next level of available technology or the next level of creativity. In other words we should scaffold them in such a way that they feel success and are eager to explore more.

I believe pairing teachers (a “techie” teacher with a “non-techie” teacher) could have very rewarding implications and could move the faculty to a more technologically advanced level. The teacher who is technologically savvy would provide quick and easy to implement strategies to her partner teacher. Strategies such as power point that she is currently using, web-sites which are being used or ways to use the digital camera for more than photo album pictures. This strategy would encourage both teachers to grow because the “techie” teacher would have to deepen her knowledge and understanding enough to explain it to someone else. The “non-techie” teacher would receive the benefits and wisdom offered by the partner teacher.