

Years ago after returning from three years in Europe I made a choice to be involved in my children's education. I had enrolled them in a Montessori school and was impressed with the Montessori method of instruction. I later attended Montessori training myself and subsequently worked in a small Montessori school as a teacher instructing children in first through third grade. It was during this time in my life that I discovered that experiential learning was truly beneficial to young children. I have maintained a great respect for hands-on learning styles and believe that we, as educators, have a responsibility to ensure that we adapt our teaching styles to best serve the learner.

In many ways, my earlier experiences with Montessori lead me to my present interest in educational technology. Students today are no strangers to technology but our teachers are. I firmly believe that our children are growing up in a digital era and that we, as teachers, must modify instruction to reflect this modified learning style that they have adopted. Our students are multitaskers who listen to iPods while studying; they talk on their cell phones while listening to music while working online. This may seem like a distraction to many adult learners but to students who don't know otherwise, it is completely normal.

Many of our teachers simply refuse to modify their teaching methods or acknowledge that the youth growing up in this digital era are capable of being successful multitaskers. I disagree wholeheartedly. I witness on a daily basis the benefits that technology has provided our youth in school. I observe students engaging in online research and sharing knowledge with each other through email, instant messaging, blogs and other communication tools. These students use

computers to search for information as well as a means of transporting data to and from home. They engage in projects and share what they have discovered through multimedia projectors and laptops. Technology, when used correctly, has served to engage our students and help prepare them for the future. All students must have technology skills to be successful in their careers. Nearly all trades and professions utilize technology and if we do not integrate technology across our curriculum then we are doing a disservice to our students.

It is for these reasons mentioned above that I have pursued a career in computer education. My commitment to education goes beyond teaching our students how to effectively use a computer. I have worked hard to train and encourage my colleagues so that they too may recognize the value of technology in our schools.