* ***What innovations are you most excited about and why?  What is their application to learning?***

I think the iPad is one of the best current inventions for the classroom. It can be used in so many different ways to do so many different things. The best thing about the iPad is that it is very universal. It can be used for whole class instruction, small groups, or individual use for a variety of subjects.

The iPad has apps that are applicable to every subject. While some of the apps are paid, there are many that are free. This is a real benefit to teachers. Teachers don’t get paid enough to continually buy materials for their students. By using free apps, the students are able to continuously stay engaged, even though very little money is put forth from their instructor.

* ***How will you stay current on educational research and innovation?  How will you share this knowledge with teachers in your building?***

The best part of my job is the opportunity to stay on top of new technologies. Our Technology Department has meetings every Thursday where we can discuss new and upcoming technologies. We also have many different companies come in and do trainings for us. This allows us the ability to learn the technology, then take that knowledge back to the schools and train the teachers.

* ***What technology tools will you use to effectively improve productivity and student learning? What technology tools will be the easiest to promote in your building?***

Like I stated before, I think the iPad tool for the classroom. It allows students to learn new information with very little guidance. In fact, many students use the iPad more effectively than their teachers. So, why not promote the use of this device to enhance productivity and creativity.

* ***What technology tools will be most challenging?***

Currently, our district is on an online assessment kick. Every computer time is being used for one type of assessment or another. Therefore, the computer lab is a very challenging technology tool. The computer lab in many schools was renamed to “creativity lab.” Yet, it is hard to promote any sort of creativity in these labs when they are always being used to assess students with multiple-choice tests. In all of my Master’s classes, we talked about alternative forms of assessment; finding different ways to assess students besides multiple choice tests. Unfortunately, there is no time for this.