* ***What leadership skills will help to promote technology integration in your school?***

It is very important to show respect to all of the teachers no matter what their skill level may be. By showing respect to the teachers, I feel like I will earn their respect in return, and they will be willing to ask for my help and guidance for their technology needs in their classrooms.

Another skill that I feel is really important to help promote technology integration in my schools is patience. Many of the teachers with very basic Mac skills seem to get frustrated with technology easily. Therefore, if I can show patience while I am teaching them new things, they will be more willing to show patience. In turn, they will be more willing to put in the effort to try new things no matter how hard they may seem at first.

* ***What are your strengths/weaknesses as a leader?***

**Strengths-** Currently, one of my biggest strengths as an Educational Technology Specialist is that I just came from the classroom. Many of the teachers like that I have been in the classroom because I can relate the technology that I am teaching to classroom ideas. So by giving them ideas, they feel like the technology is applicable and actually something that they can use in their classrooms.

In addition, I believe another one of my strengths is the ability to adapt different technologies to the different classrooms needs. For example, with a program like Pixie, I have had students do projects with the phases of the moon (6th Grade), animal habitats (4th Grade), and tame/wild animals (2nd grade). Teachers like knowing that these different programs can be related to many parts of their curriculum.

**Weaknesses-** In my job, the teachers expect me to be able to fix everything that may happen to go wrong with their computers. I am not an amazing fix-it person. So, currently I think that that may be one of my biggest challenges and weaknesses as a leader. Fortunately, I am not afraid to ask for help. I am willing to get the help I need in order to answer the teachers’ questions. On the other hand, I think that the teachers like seeing that I don’t know everything, and that I am not afraid to admit that I don’t know everything. It makes me a real person and not just somebody from “The District.”

* ***What challenges do you foresee?***

One of the biggest challenges that I have found so far is the teachers who are already good at using technology. They seem to have an attitude that they already know it all and that there is nothing I can do to help them incorporate new technologies into their classroom. They seem to think that they are smarter than me. It seems that when a training is mandatory, they are playing on the internet so they don’t have listen to what I have to say. Although I am sure these teachers do know a lot, it would be nice for them to listen to the presentation so they can help other teachers, when I ‘m not there, who may need help in the future.

Another challenge that I foresee in the future is that I will get out of touch with the classroom and will not be able as in tune with the curriculum as I am now. Just coming from the classroom allows me to relate to the teachers problems, successes, stresses, and worries. After a few years, I might forget what they are going through. Many of the teachers trust me because I was a classroom teacher. I have heard many complaints from teachers about how the EdTechs and other district personnel don’t know what it is like to be a teacher.

* ***Who are the stakeholders that need to be involved?***

There are many stakeholders that need to be involved. First, the EdTechs are vital. The EdTechs are a team. It is important that we stick together and learn as much as we can from each other so we can continue to help the teachers.

Other people that need to take stake in the process are Principals, EBL department, Achievement Coaches, and the Teachers. Without all of us working as a team, we will not be able to align technology with the curriculum to enhance the learning of all students.

* ***What information is needed to understand about the school/district culture?***

Our school district is very, very into technology. In fact, we have the biggest technology department in the entire state. Therefore, it is important for teachers to continue to learn more about how they can incorporate technology into their curriculum.

Our district offers many professional development classes. It offers everything from the Mac Basics classes to the Technology endorsement and many classes in between. It also will give credits for professional development towards a lane change. This can be a very good incentive for teachers who are looking for a raise while still trying to learn more about technology.