

Personal Philosophy for Melissa Whitener

Melissa Whitener

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Karla Swafford

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Technology is here to stay, and we are doing the child a disservice if we do not introduce interactive and age-appropriate technology in the preschool setting. The NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) says, “by allowing children to freely explore touch screens, feelings of success are enhanced, confidence is improved when children’s accomplishments are displayed on digital projectors, they begin to feel comfortable when provided opportunities such as using “traditional” mouse and keyboard computers.” (*Technology and Young Children: Online Resources and Position Statement*, n.d.) Fast forward to their future, Kayla Delzer stated, “93% of employers use social media to hire”. (TEDx Talks, 2015) Imagine the percentage upon their graduation in 2036! Competence with technology is crucial for future success.

1st Biblical Support for My Technology Integration

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 *Timothy* 2:2 (*NKJV*), n.d.) Pedagogy has an obligation to pass on truth to future generations. Not just any “truth” but the Apostle Paul says, “And the things that you have heard from *me...*” (emphasis added) Paul had a personal relationship with his student Timothy. Building one on one connections with my students is superior to electronic interaction. For the age group that I work with (3–4-year-olds), technology is a necessary *supplement* to traditional instruction. Socialization is crucial for this age group as they move from playing individually alongside their peers to playing with them. Teachers can mirror appropriate social/emotional interactions with the child which cannot be taught by a computer. Teaching how to share can be talked about on a screen but must be practiced with real people in live situations. Hebrews 10:24 says, “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.”

2nd Biblical Support for My Technology Integration

In Philippians, Paul states “...whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” (*Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)*, n.d.-b) I am under a professional obligation to ensure my usage of technology is age appropriate and falls into the biblically derived moral understanding of my Christian school’s core values. Due to this, I preview every interactive video that I am placing into my digital lesson plans which parents can view, prior to ever showing it to the child.

3rd Biblical Support for My Technology Integration

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” (*Luke 2:52 (NKJV)*, n.d.) We must train our students to grow in wisdom like Him and technology can assist. I often play Jack Hartmann who is known in the educational world as a helper for phonics sounds as well as handwriting “in the sky.” The iPad can be used for kinesthetic learners to trace their A-B-C’s. I intend to purchase a digital app titled: Novel Effect. This app advertises: “When you read aloud with our multi-sensory soundscapes, your students are transported to new places and deepen their connection with characters in each story. In no time you’ll see better concentration, comprehension, and a growing love of reading throughout your classroom.” (Novel Effect, 2025)

4th Biblical Support for My Technology Integration

” ...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,” (*Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV)*, n.d.) Education is not a one-day process. It is a lifelong endeavor which requires effort and dedication to acquire mastery. Variety in the presentation of instruction can assist in

maintaining interest and engagement over the long term. At a former school, I was able to teach on a Clear Touch screen where the children can be shown the numeral 4 and a picture of a tree. They are asked to touch and drag four apples to the tree. This is a fun way to teach the state standard required to recognize the number 4. On the same screen, the teacher can ask the child what color the apple is and input their response into a formal online assessment which records data to be used for a future parent-teacher conference. Brain breaks such as *Danny Go's Wiggle Dance*, help young bodies move and get energy out! (Danny Go! 2022) Lastly, I would like to incorporate virtual field trips to places such as the Sistine Chapel and the San Diego Zoo. If the pupils are happy, so are parents, principals, and superintendents.

Conclusion:

“Relationships between students and passionate teachers will always be the success stories in the classroom.” (TEDx Talks, 2015) Technology is a tool for improving engagement with my students which helps me form bonds with them. This is the primary objective.

References

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