Sarah Boutwell
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Master of Arts in Educational Technology

Goal Statement

I am a recent graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. As a $1^{st}/2^{nd}$ grade teacher who has experience with various technologies, I am eager to further my knowledge of new technologies in all areas, in the hopes of transferring this newfound knowledge to my students to motivate and introduce the to the technology in which they will need to become familiar with in order to be successful members of society.

As an undergraduate student at Michigan State University, I had great success in all subject matters. I am certain that my strong desire to excel in the classroom is directly related to my passion for teaching. I learned the most from my education courses that incorporated technology because I was truly invested in my learning, and devoted to bringing technology into my everyday teaching. As a first year teacher, I have had the opportunity to bring various technologies into my lessons and classroom planning. I am confident that the knowledge from my undergraduate courses, coupled with the courses offered through the Educational Technology Program, will allow me to improve as a teacher, while achieving my goal to motivate my students as learners.

From my teaching experience, I have noticed that my students are much more attentive, interested, and motivated in any and all lessons involving technology. As a teacher of a $1^{st}/2^{nd}$ grade split, I recently received a Smart Board in my classroom that I use to supplement all of my teaching. Aside from the visual appeal and interactive hands-on experience, I have found my teaching to be much more organized when using the notebook software. I am able to differentiate instruction through various activities using this technology and create lessons with open-ended questions that can be followed without the use of textbooks. In addition, I was able to use an ENO Board throughout my internship in a third grade classroom, which allowed me to experience another media for teaching with technology. I have also used digital storytelling in my classroom for Language Arts and Social Studies projects. Along with other technologies, I have had the opportunity to plan and take part in a virtual field trip in which the students performed book-related skits for a class in Texas. This experience opened my eyes to the many opportunities available to students using technology, including communication across the world, and this further motivated me to integrate technology across the curriculum. With a Master's in Educational Technology, I would use these acquired skills and knowledge to enhance my teaching and encourage student thinking. As a teacher, I am committed to being a lifelong learner. In today's society, technology is vital for future success. I not only want to incorporate technology to engage my students, but I also want to introduce the students to various technologies so that they gain a valuable experience that can be applied to their future learning.

I am confident that my teaching and student success would soar while taking Michigan State University's Educational Technology courses. As a graduate student, I hope to learn from my colleagues and professors and transfer this knowledge to my classroom. In addition, I would use this knowledge to assist other teachers who want to incorporate technology into their own teaching. Researching the courses offered within this program, I have determined that many of them would be productive and help me to accomplish my goals as an educator integrating technology across the curriculum. *CEP 815: Technology and Leadership* is extremely innovative in that it takes a look into the future of technology and how to differentiate learning so that all students can succeed as learners using technology. I am equally interested in *CEP 816: Technology, Teaching, and Learning across the Curriculum.* Since I am an elementary teacher who teaches all subjects, I would be particularly invested in learning how to use technology in every subject area. I am very eager to learn more about integrating technology into Language Arts especially, since this was my major in the Elementary Education Program at Michigan State University. Finally, *CEP 805: Learning Mathematics and Technology* would be incredibly beneficial for me as a teacher and for my students because of my limited experience with integrating technology into mathematics. As a 1st/2nd grade educator, I find myself teaching math using manipulatives and the Smart Board Notebook Software. Although my students are motivated to complete math activities and they have demonstrated a wide variety of knowledge through these techniques, I feel that they could make great strides with additional technologies being utilized. After thoroughly researching this program, I am certain that I would not only internalize all concepts learned, but would also transfer this knowledge to my own classroom.

I am certain that the Educational Technology Program will allow me to learn and grow as an educator, which ultimately, promotes student success in the classroom. I guarantee that receiving my Master of Arts in Educational Technology will both prepare me to further integrate technology across the curriculum, and allow my students to become motivated and familiar with the technology that is vital to the society in which they live.