

MODEL WEEK 1 DB RESPONSE

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Essential Condition: Engaged Community

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It takes a cooperative effort from the school, teachers, families, and community to create an optimal academic environment for students. An optimal academic environment includes giving students the tools and opportunities to use technology. Technology is always changing, it's important to keep up to date and stay informed of new initiatives, tools, and forms of technology that can be beneficial to a student's academic success. It is important to educate all of those who play a role in a student's education. "Technology has the most impact on achieving educational goals when schools involve the entire local community" (Doering & Roblyer, 2013. p. 69).

I am not teaching yet, but I plan to incorporate and promote the importance of an engaged community in my classroom. A local community is full of opportunities and funding sources. If students and the school get involved and reach out to places in the community, such as businesses, universities, and corporations, students will be able to see how technology is used in the real world. If businesses partner with school programs, it provides "a way to extend school technology budgets [and] brings many talents together to work toward a common purpose: school improvement" (Doering & Roblyer, 2013. p. 69).

I think that if students are able to see what they learn being put to use by professionals, they will be more likely to engage in the use of technology in the classroom. Local community members who work with technology could come be guest speakers or give presentations to classes and show students how they use technology at their job. Earlier this year, I watched a presentation at a local elementary school assembly where a high school engineering club gave a presentation with a robot they built. The high school students explained how they made the robot, how to use it, and what it is used for. All of the students were engaged in the presentation. Guest speakers like this could be very inspirational for students to get involved and want to learn about technology. Teachers could also provide students with enrichment activities lead by guest speakers or professionals who could give students an introduction to how they use technology in their job. An engaged community gives students the opportunity to use different forms of technology, gets students interested, and gives them experience in working with technology and local communities members.

Resource:

Roblyer, M.D., & Doering, A.H. (2013). Integrating educational technology into teaching. (6th ed.). Boston: Pearson.