

The Future of Learning Lives on...

By: Amy Doerner

A year ago when I set out on this journey of achieving my Master's degree, I wasn't entirely sure of what I was getting myself into. As a full time wife, teacher and mother of four, how was I going to add one more thing into my crazy schedule? Classes, homework, and not to mention the many late nights required for studying, were all necessities to meet this challenge. However, with many supporters behind me, the decision was made, and the challenge began with goals in mind.

Though my journey here at Michigan State is coming to a close and my MAED is almost in hand, I feel my desire for learning has only begun. Sure it may not take place through an online course, or listening in on a classroom lecture, but will be valuable learning just the same. Michigan State has given the opportunity and necessary tools to dig deeper into learning and ask those critical thinking questions to keep the spark for learning alive. I will continue to add to the resources and knowledge I have gained while attending the online Master's program.

Professional Development opportunities are always offered by our school district, our RESD, as well as surrounding area schools. Though some of the trainings are required, we have the option to attend additional professional development trainings in personal areas of interest. I will continue to attend several new training opportunities related to subject area, special education, and literacy to add knowledge to enhance my teaching abilities, and strategies to implement into my classroom to promote success.

Another way I will continue my learning is by taking on new roles at the elementary school where I currently teach using strategies and knowledge I have acquired through my literacy based graduate courses. I plan to take on a role of Literacy Curriculum Director for kindergarten through sixth grade. Using many strategies acquired, and coursework experiences I will be able to collaborate with others to achieve a common goal...improving student's literacy based achievements. This is something I would have never even considered before attending the MAED program; however, Michigan State University has given me the coursework and experience necessary to feel confident in my conceptual knowledge, as well as my leadership capabilities.

I will continue my learning process by observing my fellow colleagues in action, and asking for their feedback as well. I will take advantage of observation/evaluation opportunities whenever available; as I feel constructive criticism can be beneficial throughout the learning process. In the past I have asked my building principal to observe often just to get valuable feedback on a particular concept, lesson, or implementation of small groups.

Lastly, I will continue the learning process by continuing to remain open minded, able to collaborate with others, and always willing to try new things. Whether it is a new form of technology, classroom management, or teaching mechanism, I will do my best to seek out necessary information to effectively implement the task or strategy. This positive attitude and strong work ethic will guide me next year, as I have been asked to teach a combination class; which is something I have never done in the past. Though the grade level addition is a little overwhelming, I will take what I have learned here at Michigan State, my ability to work hard and my desire for learning, and will conquer this challenge.