

### **Before. During. After.**

Two years ago I made a major decision to continue my education by applying to the Master of Arts in Educational Technology (MAET) Program online through Michigan State University. I was only in my first year of teaching, but knew that I had this passion that could positively impact my school community if I followed through with it. While filling out the application for the MAET program, we were asked to share what our goals are in obtaining this degree. Looking back at this goal statement, I am proud to say that I feel extremely confident in where I am today and have achieved, maybe even surpassed my goals.

In my original goal statement, I began by saying that I thought I knew a lot about technology in the classroom and discussed how I have learned tremendously from other colleagues and professional development opportunities. My main goal upon entering this program was to learn about different forms of technology and how to incorporate them into my classroom. I hoped that by the end of my coursework, I would have increased my knowledge of educational technology to the point of feeling comfortable sharing that knowledge with others. Overall, my goals centered around increasing my personal knowledge of how to properly bring technology into my classroom in a way that would help me contribute positively to my school community.

Reflecting on the school year of 2019-2020, we were moved to remote learning due to a global pandemic. Going through this experience of remote teaching helped me prove to myself that I gained incredible confidence using technology while teaching. From accessibility to credibility to making learning fun and equal for all, I feel as if Michigan State created the perfect program to help me obtain my goals. Today, I can happily say that I have achieved my original goals and then some! Through each course I've taken, I have walked away with incredible new knowledge, some of which I did not expect. Currently, my goals have altered slightly since I have gained confidence. Now that I feel comfortable with my new knowledge of technology in various classroom settings and sharing these ideas with others, I am setting new goals for myself.

1. Create a PD presentation twice a year to share with colleagues on new ideas, resources, etc.
2. Continue expanding my knowledge of educational technology through multiple medias by continuously participating in professional development opportunities

I have acquired such great knowledge going through this program and achieving my goals that I want to be able to share it with others. Times are constantly changing so it is important to keep up with new material and information. Teachers are lifelong learners and that will be a goal that I will carry with me through the rest of my career.