**Statement of Purpose**

**Prepared By: Katie Majewski**

Today’s society is becoming increasingly more competitive than ever before. This competition incorporates technology and the knowledge to which we have regarding it. This brings about a rather troubling issue. Our students are leaving school unprepared for what is to come with regards to technology. We have entered into a digital era where technology is no longer a want, but rather a need. It is important that educators across the board take the time to educate themselves with regards to technology and what it has to offer. Integrating this technology into the classroom is also a key component to facilitating student learning in a creative and inclusive environment. Technology does just that; it provides the students with the opportunity to express their creativity. Technology also offers students the chance to stay connected with the world outside of the school walls. Students need to understand technology and keep up with the newest technological innovations. Plair (2008) claims that, many teachers struggle with the constant cycle of technological innovations, however, technology is becoming the new language of the 21st century and will inevitably continue to grow and change with the times. Therefore, it is our duty as educators to ensure our students receive the best education and are well prepared to enter into the real world.

Computers are the basis for today’s ever-changing society. Educational systems need to prepare students to go out into the real world prepared with life skills. Technology is one of those skills that students need to in order to ensure a successful life after school. Jonassen (2000, p.1) believes that computers are “mindtools”, which are said to be a change in one’s opinion regarding how computers should be integrated into classrooms. These mindtools are more like a state of mind with regards to the integration of technology within the classroom. Technology is so important to today’s society. Norton and Wilburg (2003, p. 40) believe that by disregarding technology is simply a “wasteful abuse of powerful technology, resulting in overwhelming yield”. As educators, we need to utilize and embrace technology to ensure we stay current with the newest innovations. Educators and administrators alike need to be proactive in integrating this technology into the classroom. We need to maintain a positive attitude as it will inevitably reflect on our students.

The purpose or goal of this course is to prepare students to be technological literate by the time they graduate high school. I hope that by taking this course a student is prepared to enter the real world technologically armed. I have devised a curriculum design that I see fit for my school district in particular. My school is rather on the lower end of the spectrum when it comes to technology and the use of it within the classroom. Many of my students are behind and did not even know how to save a document until I arrived. The students had no previous knowledge regarding technology. When looking at the standards and the grade level at which my students meet those standards I find myself following the 1st -2nd grade standards with my 6th -8th grade classes. Therefore when looking at my curriculum design I have decided to start with the basics and gradually evolve the program into something more in depth and complicated over the years to come.

**References**

Norton, P. & Wilburg, K.M. (2003). *Teaching with technology: Designing*

*opportunities to lean.* Thomson-Wadsworth

Jonassen, D.H. (2000). *Computers as mindset for schools: Engaging critical thinking. Columbus, OH; Upper Saddle River, NJ. Prentice-Hall Inc.*

Plair, S. (2008). *Revamping professional development for technology integration and fluency*. The Clearing House, *82*(2), 70-74.