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The long rambling idea

What would I like to focus my main project on?

Staff development.

Why?

Because on the surface it looks like we’re really far behind. Technology should not just be used for the sake of using technology, but the kids have to be powering down to come to school. There are kids bringing in their iPads and showing off apps who are in classrooms that barely turn on a student computer.

What are the issues I face?

I don’t want to come across as some annoying know-it-all who has taken 2 classes and thinks she knows the answers to everything.

I know there is a lot that I don’t know, and so much that I don’t even know I don’t know it.

What I know I don’t know:

* What my boss does (maybe she is doing in-depth staff development that I don’t know about, or working with the teachers via the kids), what her thoughts are on staff development, if she wishes she were doing more and/or am I stepping on toes to do more.
* Curricula for what feels like 30 million different learners. How do I pull staff in and say “Hey, you need to know this because it will help out in your classroom in these ways: x, y, and z” when I don’t know x, y, and z because I don’t know their classrooms? What elements are consistent among teachers who might teach a 6th grader with a LD or an average 4 year old or a language delayed 5 year old or an 8 year old with profound hearing loss?
* The best way to implement staff development. Must move past “here, learn how this piece of software works” and expect teacher to magically come up with ways to implement projects using said software
* How to get teachers who are 1,2’s up to level they need to be?
* Teaching terminology/ methods. How to get teachers to view me beyond help-desk persona?

What I need to start doing

* Keep reading about the field. Facebook groups, log on to ISTE more, maybe get membership, find out the best blogs in the field and follow them, catch up on magazine articles, identify publications in the field an actually read some journal articles, start creating notebooks of info I can use
* Connect with others in the field. Learn the names of the big fish.
* Become well-read enough that I can generate my own opinions and have the facts and resources to back said opinions up.
* Research examples of good staff development (see back issues of magazines I haven’t read). What about asynchronous development? Could develop mini-webpage lessons that are project based, but then again, have developed how-to tutorials for fixes that no one looks at. If I am able to come up with anything good that is educationally sound, is it possible to get admin backing so there is more of a push/incentive for teachers to complete modules?
* Research tools. I don’t even know what Ning is.
* Continue weaning teachers, don’t do everything for them, will be easier to get them past level 1 & 2 without it being a huge shock.
* After getting a firmer grasp on above, start looking more at basics of teaching different groups. Learn more about Bloom’s taxonomy. <http://visualblooms.wikispaces.com/>
* Take deep breaths and realize that none of this will happen overnight
* Technology assessment? Find out where people are and what they are interested in. Am I allowed to do it? Will anyone support it? Will teachers complete it.

Maybe have something where technology information is grouped by subject instead of by tool, so there could be a class/module/etc. that’s technology for (language arts, creative writing, geography, some higher level cognitive skill) and part of it is showing examples of how technology can be used in that area, with links/time allotted for problem-based exercises for the teachers to practice, and links to step by step instructions on how to use the tool. Technology for collaboration. What are the benefits of collaboration? What are ways to collaborate? What are common pitfalls to collaborating, and how to avoid them? Here are some examples/tools used for collaboration (grouped by grade/skill/area). Here are some scenarios to use to practice the tools. If these practices are using skills you don’t know, click on the link (how to use wikis/how to upload) for help. Follow-up – what did you learn, what did you like, ideas about how to use this in your classroom, etc. Could be very far reaching (like include best practices for video taping, using a web cam, internet safety, all connected to collaboration) and have cross over (technology for creativity have same link to video best practices).

Units based on Bloom’s Taxonomy?

Am I reinventing the wheel?

Would this make sense?

Would this be something that I could actually do, because doing a weak job of it would be worse than not doing it.

[Stage Characteristics (ACOT)](http://www.sonoma.edu/users/p/phelan/504/staffdev.htm#Part2)

1 Entry

 computers just out of boxes; lots of questions about the physical set up and operations; frustration

 2Adoption

 computers are operational; many of the setup questions have been answered but the connection to teaching and learning is "just developing"

3Adaptation

 technology is integrated into "traditional" classroom projects- research papers, essays

4Appropriation

 active learning projects are more of a day to day reality-- students are doing more project based work using technology... multimedia activities, camcorder productions, integrated projects

5 Invention

 confidence to experiment with teaching, learning and technology is exhibited by teacher; role of teacher is more that of a facilitator; students are demonstrating initiative in directing their own learning

technology training for thinking