Technology Assignment 2
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In my fieldwork assignment classroom, technology is used in a variety of ways that seem standard for the modern classroom. There are three computers that students are allowed to use during zones and math groups. There are specific links for each time that the students are allowed to use the computer (a yellow star when the students are in zones and a smiley face when they are in their math groups). Each link is to a website containing interactive games that pertain to the subject(s) the students are learning at the time. My fieldwork teacher changes these games when necessary to match them to the material being taught. Another technology-based option that students have while they are in zones is the videogame console. The teacher has provided a game console that plays educational games for math and spelling. Except when new activities are added to the zones, the videogame and computers are by far the most popular activities.

There is also a projection system in place in the classroom that connects to the teacher’s computer and allows her to display things on her monitor (like Accelerated Reader tests) on the whiteboard for the class to see. There is also a document camera in the classroom. My fieldwork teacher uses this to explain worksheets for math, help the students as they are filling out observation sheets for science, and I have even seen her teach a math lesson using transparent counting sticks. The image from the document camera displays on the whiteboard, as well. This is beneficial because the students can go to the board and answer questions from the worksheet without actually writing on the paper being displayed. This is a possible solution to the issue of wasting paper with document camera when they are written on for every class. If the page is projected onto a board that can be erased then the actual worksheet doesn’t need to be written on. The classroom also has an overhead projector but I have never seen it used.
The classroom also has a television in it (besides the one used for the videogames). This is used for announcements and watching movies. I have only seen the television used once, but it is still an important tool to have in the classroom.

In my classroom, I plan on taking advantage of as many facets of technology as are available to me. I will have at least three student computers for a computer station or center as well as a separate computer designated as the teacher’s computer. These computers should have internet capabilities so that my students can play interactive games that I set up links for. I will have a projection system that connects to my computer so that I can display my monitor for the class to see as well as an overhead projector so that I can vary the techniques I use when teaching as well as expose the students to different technological tools. A few tools that I recently learned about that I believe would be beneficial to 21st century students are a clicker system in which students use remotes to anonymously answer questions, a camera and scanner so the class could make photo-stories of their writing, and a classroom iPad with educational applications downloaded to it. The care of these tools would have to be extensive, so use of them, especially the iPad would have to be closely monitored.

I will also have a television in my room to show videos if they are not available through a computer and projection system. After observing my fieldwork classroom, I really like the idea of educational videogames, so I will have a videogame consoles with assorted educational videogames for the students to play as a station or center.

All of these technological tools will be beneficial to my students because most of them will already be familiar with some technology, whether it is videogames, computers, or simply television, when they walk into my classroom. These tools will provide countless learning
experiences for the students and for myself as we all discover the ways that technology can be used to foster learning. The students will be able to create projects from their work that they would be interested in, even outside the classroom. If these tools are used correctly, to aid my teaching and not replace it, then these tools will be invaluable to the “digital native” students that will be in my classroom.