



President's Paragraph: Notes from HASTI's President

Teaching in a Technology World

Dawn Bick

In each issue of The Hoosier Science Teacher, we invite the president to share some thoughts as an introduction. In this issue, HASTI's current President Dawn Bick offers her thoughts on the use of technology in the science classroom.

As a teacher, I know how many new techniques, strategies, and ideas get thrown at you from every angle. It's stressful and daunting. I hope that the technology ideas and strategies you're reading about in this month's Hoosier Science Journal are not dismissed or ignored. Teachers often struggle with new ways to use technology for a variety of reasons. We fear that we don't know enough about the technology to teach others. We are concerned that our students will use technology in a negative way. We feel these technology movements are fleeting and will pass. Teachers can navigate this new and uncharted experience together and positively.

I'm here to cheer you on and remind you that we are teachers because we value learning. For us to be good teachers, we need to be good learners. We must be willing to learn and utilize new and exciting ways to engage and reach our students. This generation has had technology in every moment of their lives. Technology is not going to disappear, whether we access it or not. Reaching out and embracing new ideas through technology keeps us fresh and engaged in today's world.

Students typically abuse technology when they don't have the knowledge and expectations about what is acceptable. Modeling and demonstrating how to use technology responsibly helps students know where the boundaries lie in using these resources. I encourage you to show students how to use technology and explain technology and explain why using technology in negative, disingenuous ways is detrimental to their learning.

Use technology in front of them. Talk through what you're doing, how you're thinking and share scenarios of the consequences of poor technology use.

Although different tools and aspects of technology are fleeting, the use of technology in education is not. Technology is and should be utilized for student engagement and to ignite teachers' imaginations to teach more effectively. Technology can be used to give us a fresh take on our content. It can be used to excite students that are hard to engage. We can use technology to differentiate learning for students at a variety of levels. Technology is forever changing and improving our lives. We do ourselves and our students a disservice when we don't use our resources wisely.

Ignoring technology will not make it go away. It is a tool that we use every day, be it our computers, phones or the alarm clock. Embracing how technology can be used in our world and classrooms allows us to be learners, gives us a chance to show students a positive way to use technology, and can be utilized in new and exciting ways to teach our students. I hope you try one of these new ideas this school year. Remember, we're all in this together. You're not alone! Reach out on HASTI social media and allow us to help each other.

See you in the digital world!

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