

Fall-ing Forward Reflection

- What would you do differently if you could start again?

Looking back at the fall semester DreamIT implementation, one thing that I would change is creating more elements outside of the classroom. I used the fall semester to get my students' feet wet with this new way of thinking. However with my DreamIT project being Science is everything; everything is science, I wish I had included more at home projects to engage my students in. My students did an incredible job bringing connections to their daily lives about science into our classroom through discussions, however by designing some at home projects would have allowed parents to be more involved with this initiative. Also, inviting parents into see the meteorology reports would have been something that they would have really enjoyed. I taped all of them and shared them on our website and I have only heard positive feedback, however, allowing parents to experience it along with us would have added to the overall implementation.

- What are the areas in which your project can grow?

The technology aspect of my DreamIT project will be something that takes full bloom in the spring. As a class, we worked tirelessly on our routine and procedure with the iPads. I scaffolding student learning on the iPads by introducing a new app each month giving students the opportunity to learn how to sign on, navigate, and use each app towards their learning. With these elements becoming a natural thing in our classroom, we can now spend more time using the iPads as an instructional tool. I am looking forward to the creative projects and interactive learning that will transpire from the semester ahead.

Another aspect I would like to see grow is the collaboration among staff members in my building. We have gotten to a great place as colleagues where we can conduct peer observations with no judgment or agenda but rather a genuine approach to learn as grow as educators. I would love to continue our conversations that occurred in the focus groups in the fall and observe each other classroom, and collaborate on how to make this DreamIT project come alive not just in my classroom, but in other classrooms as well.

- What do you wish to see out of your Dream IT this semester?

In this semester, I would like to see my students' creativity explode into what they make of it. I want my students' opinion more about elements in our DreamIT project. Technology will be a bigger piece this semester as students will get to explore, create, and share their learning about science. I will also be looking to include at home projects and the involvement of parents more often this semester. I want to eventually get to the point were talking about science, including science observations, and making connections to science content is an organic aspect in our classroom. Not something that is written in lesson plans, but more authentic as to where my students take their own learning built on their own curiosities.