Technology in the Classroom Part I

In Mrs. Zibili’s World Geography class at Hastings Ninth Grade Center there were multiple forms of technology used. The technology Mrs. Zibili used ranged from very low tech to some of the newest technologies in most educational settings. I found the Smart Board very interesting and exciting. It is the most interactive technology I have ever seen used in a classroom. In my opinion, the best thing about the Smart Board is the numerous possibilities and options it offers teachers and students. Not only does it display information, but the teacher can write, draw, use symbols, etc. right on top of the information. Students can see what the teacher is doing up close and personal. The students can also use the board. While I was in the classroom, any time Mrs. Zibili turned on the Smart Board everyone participated because everyone wanted a chance to use the board. I think the Smart Board is better than a traditional overhead projector because the teacher is not confined to one space. With the overhead, the teacher has to sit right by the overhead while she uses it and teach from there. However, with the Smart Board the teacher is able to teach to the entire class at the front of the room so that everyone can see her as well as the information she is talking about. Another form of technology Mrs. Zibili uses fairly often in her classroom is the ELMO document camera. This is very much like an overhead projector. The biggest difference between the ELMO and the overhead is that the ELMO does not require transparency copies like the overhead projector. This is really convenient because the teacher can put just about whatever she wants on the screen; she can put worksheets, things she’s already marked up, the students’ work, etc. When I taught my lesson to Mrs. Zibili’s class I used the ELMO for the students’ warm up. Although I only used the ELMO so that the students could read their warm up, I was still able to see how easy it is to use it and how helpful it can be in the classroom. One of the most basic technologies is a dry erase board and markers. Although this may seem incredibly low-tech, it can be just as helpful as the highest of technologies. A dry erase board is the perfect place to put daily information and upcoming events. Mrs. Zibili always writes the instructions for activities on the board as she is explaining them so that if someone missed something she said it is there for them to see. Hastings is very lucky to have access to all the technology they have because it is so beneficial to the students.

Technology in the Classroom Part II

 I hope that I am lucky enough to have access to a variety of technology when I become a teacher. I know that technology is constantly changing and improving, but if I were to walk into a classroom today there are some things I would like to have in my classroom. I would definitely love to have a Smart Board and a dry erase board in my classroom so that I could use both of these every day. I also would love to have access to a computer lab and video cameras.

 The teaching possibilities with a Smart Board are endless. I feel confident that a Smart Board would be beneficial to me and my students no matter what grade or subject I teach. I think it is a great way to get the students excited about learning. We could take notes, do lectures, projects, group work, and many other activities with the Smart Board. In my opinion it is one of the most hands on forms of instructional, educational technology. The Smart Board is great for active teaching, but I feel that a traditional dry erase board is also incredibly beneficial in the classroom. I would use the dry erase board to write daily things such as the date, objectives, homework, etc. Also, while using the Smart Board to teach, I would write the instructions for the activity on the board so they will be accessible to the students during the entire lesson.

 I do not want the extent of my technology use to end at the classroom door. I want my students to be able to use the computers in the computer lab. I feel that this will be beneficial to them in the future. Many students do not have access to computers at home; however it is important that they are familiar with them because they will have to use them in college and in the work place. Another device I would like the students to be able to use is a video camera. The students could do a lot of creative projects with a video camera. Also, it requires a higher level of thinking to synthesize information and come up with a video, news report, etc.

 All ranges of technology can be beneficial to the student and his or her education. Technology is becoming more advanced and increasingly more prevalent in our society and it’s coming to the point where it is crucial that teachers introduce students to as many different forms of technology as they can. It not only helps them in their current phase of learning, but it also helps to get them ready for the rest of their lives.