

# LEARN.TEACH.CHANGE.

*a technology Initiative*



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Are you ready for a change and up for a challenge?

Technology is increasingly being implemented as an instructional tool for students. However, effective integration of technology in the K-12 classroom has not been without its challenges. The purpose of the cohort model is to enhance teacher use of technology through a collaborative learning model. This model creates an environment where K-12 teachers can learn together, creating changes in how technology is effectively applied to the instruction of students. The goal of the cohort is to collaborate with a pre-selected group of teachers attempting to successfully integrate technology into their curriculum. Additionally, the cohort is designed to provide district leadership support for teachers practicing technology integration in their classrooms.

### A Different Approach

A cohort of 10 teachers will be developed to better learn how to integrate technology in the classroom. The cohort will explore pedagogy and best practices of technology integration as well as tools and lesson planning. There will be two cohorts of 10 teachers. One comprised of elementary teachers and another of secondary teachers.

#### The Cohort offers:

- A cohort structure to encourage social and professional support and collaborative learning.
- Faculty working in teams, who are knowledgeable in their content area.
- A strong pedagogical framework to work within, focusing on the outcome, not on a particular tech tool, to meet specific learning targets.
- Brings excitement positivity, and a commitment to continual learning.

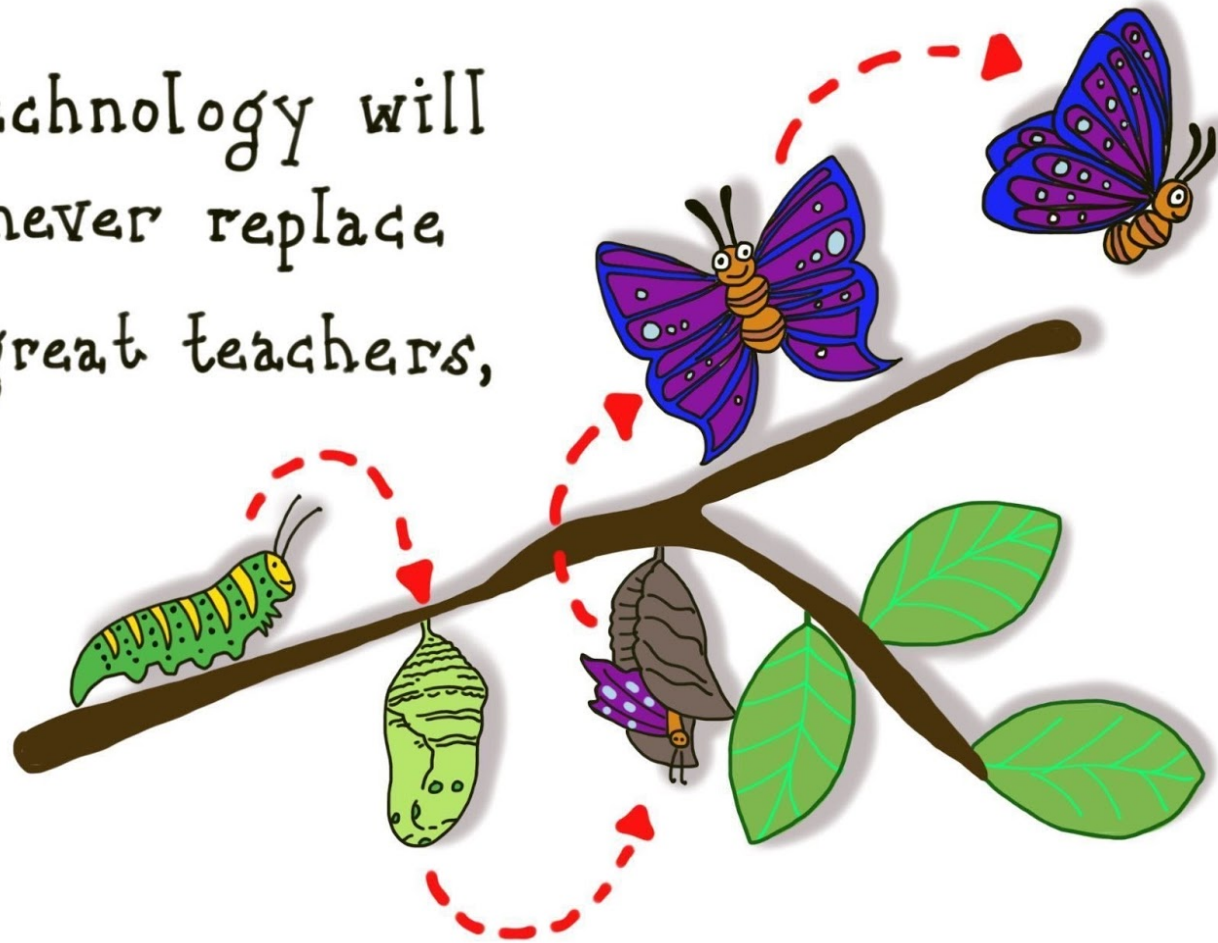
### Commitment

- Face-to-face meetings (after school or Saturdays) on technology tools which will support the initiative and direct curriculum through creativity and student engagement. Dates TBD
- Monthly online sharing discussions
- Five-Seven coaching sessions with Ashley Johnson (including modeling, lesson planning, etc.)
- Application of learned strategies and tools

Contact Ashley Johnson with questions



Technology will  
never replace  
great teachers,



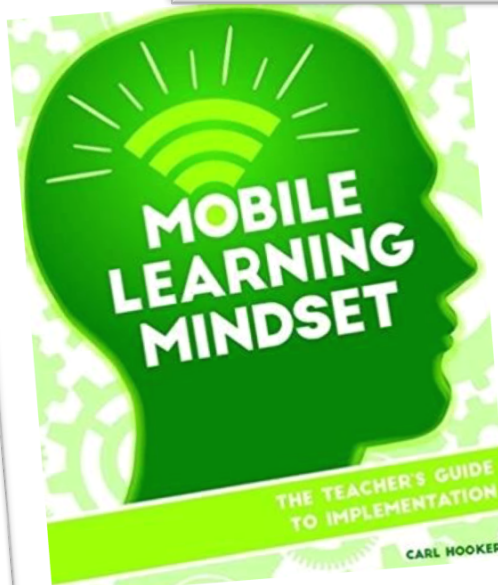
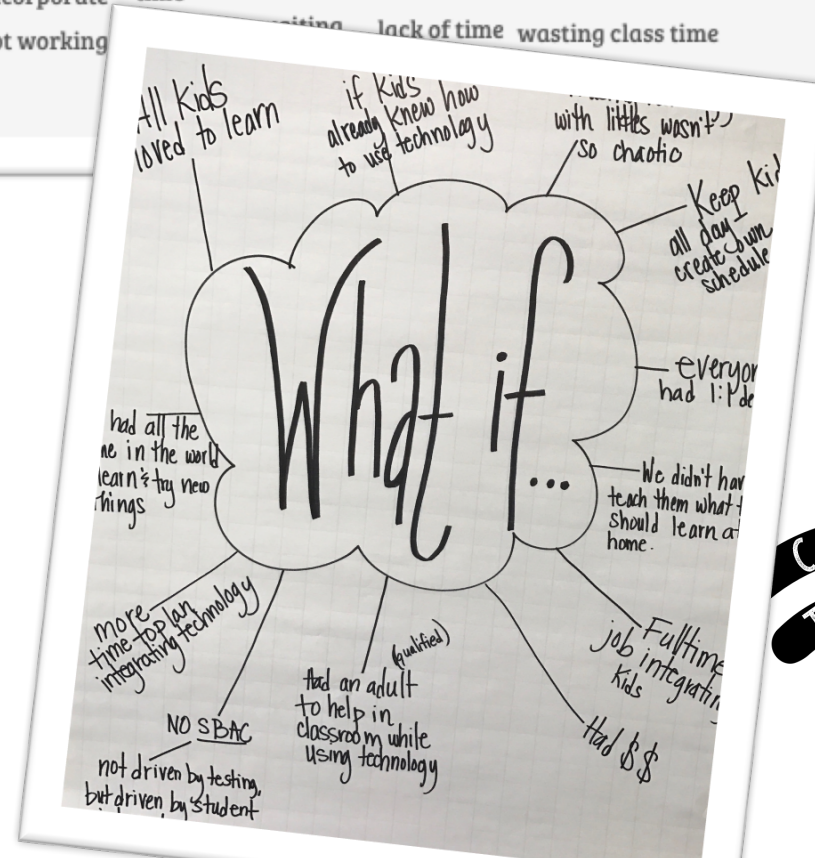
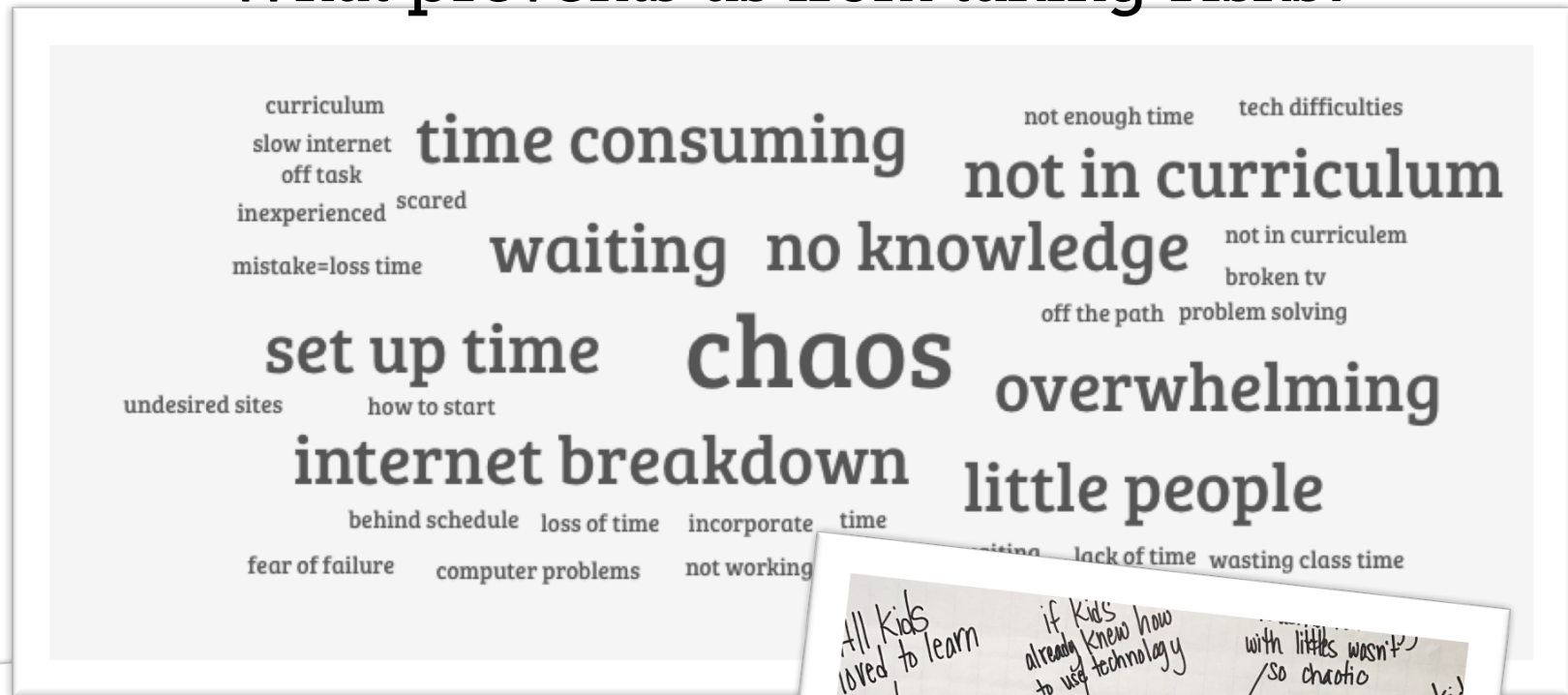
@sylvia duckworth

But technology in the hands of a great  
teacher can be transformational. *George Couros*





# What prevents us from taking risks?





# Challenges

My biggest challenge is finding time to introduce new productivity apps in the classroom. It's hard to find time to teach a new app when we are preparing our students for the ISAT. It takes me a while to create activities that are quality activities, aligned to standards, are engaging and have a purpose.

I knew that using technology in my teaching was an area where I was seriously lacking. It was something that needed changing but I was too scared to take the plunge.

My teaching I have to say has increased in the amount of technology use. I have thoroughly enjoyed pushing myself to think of new and different ways to use our technology in the classroom. At times I have felt a failure indeed but that is all part of the learning process. I

**My Challenge:** is time. Finding the time to learn the app or program well enough to use it in my lessons. Then finding the time to set up the assignment for the students to use.

My challenge is that I over think the lessons that I am trying to use technology in. My huge concern for anything that I teach is if I am encouraging my students to use higher order thinking. With technology comes the added concern of the SMAR ladder. I am worried that some of my technology lessons only reach the Substitution stage

Something that I am still challenged by regarding technology is the knowledge of if I'm going deep enough into the content while using my technology. I want to create more and substitute less, but knowing that some things substituted I don't think I will change



# Getting Rid of EXCUSES

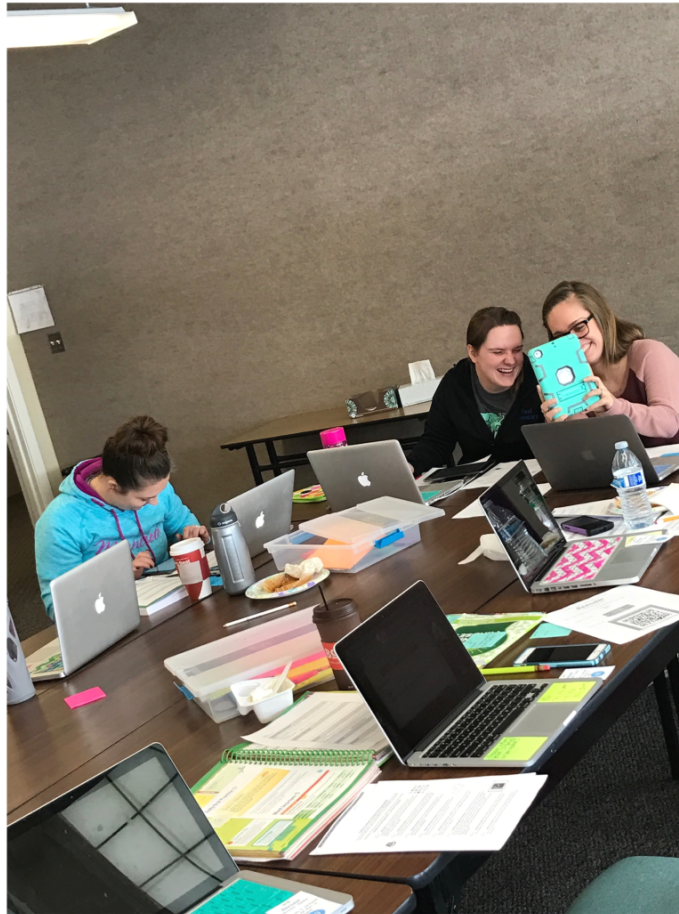


I don't foresee myself ever using the excuse that I don't have time or that it will take too long. Since stepping out of my comfort zone I have tried several new things with my students, taking the extra time to teach that new thing and have seen the payoff in the end. The extra time it takes in the beginning is worth the increase in the level of engagement and independent learning.





# Change is an opportunity to do something amazing.



As I questioned my effectiveness in teaching with technology I had to ask myself what was stopping me from using it daily? How would I be able to integrate it into my regular lessons and into my strict curriculum. I used to believe that it was impossible to fit all of it in, but I was soon surprised to see that the total engagement of my class was worth the time that it took away from me teaching directly in front of the class. I now know that my students are learning and having fun at the same time. This thinking that they can't possibly be getting the most out these activities was wrong.





# Change is an opportunity to do something amazing.

During the last few months my teaching practices have changed. I do not feel as anxious to learn new apps. Also I am okay when the students can teach me something that I did not know about an app, I used to think that I had to know all the aspects of an app before I thought it, and it is okay if I do not know it by heart.



The greatest lesson I have learned through this experience is that when used correctly, technology will always enhance a lesson. Any time that a student is able to create using technology, they become engaged and excited. I have loved watching my students become independent thinkers and seeing them become the “teachers” to their peers. All of this seemed impossible to me six months ago because they were “only” kindergarteners!

