

1.5.09

2:35-5:30 p.m.

I attended faculty training at Valley Christian Academy (VCA). The teachers were being taught the computer/technology curriculum for the coming quarter. My responsibilities during the training were to observe and to offer assistance where possible. The teachers were being trained how to create flow charts in Microsoft Excel. The charts can be made in Word, but Excel was used to provide a grid by which the shapes could be aligned the best possible. The group of teachers was roughly divided into two groups by ability level. The group was comprised of teachers who were able to complete the tasks quickly and proficiently on their own to teachers who had difficulty controlling the mouse. Dale Moncrief, the Executive Director, and my supervisor, had me working mostly with those teachers that were having more difficulty.

1.12.09

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This was my first full day at VCA. Dale and I began by reviewing the outline and contract that we created. He then instructed me on how to update the computers in the tech lab. I observed a fourth grade class who were completing their projects for the past quarter. I was able to help some of the students as well as observe. After the class I spent time updating the computers in the lab. I met up with Dale at 11:30 a.m. and he showed me the network server we tried logging on and adding me to the teachers and were successful. We broke for lunch from 12:00-12:30. After lunch I returned to the lab and continued updating computers. I then observed a third grade class. They had a substitute teacher and so they worked on KidPix creating a picture of something in the solar system.

1.23.09

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

I began today by observing a sixth grade class (Thompson) in the tech lab. The class was preparing to begin the curriculum for the quarter. Five students were completing projects from the previous quarter. This quarter the students are learning about flow charts and processes. Each grade has a project that has been tailored for the students' level of cognitive development. The projects are then adapted by each teacher/team to fit the academic curriculum. The students from this sixth grade class were shown a flowchart created by the teacher and told that they could not use her idea, but were given the freedom to choose their own topic/process. The class left the lab early to write down the ideas they had brainstormed in the lab.

After the class left I updated the computers in the lab, making sure that they had all the needed software updates and installing them if they were not present. I worked on this until a seventh grade class (Ianetta) came to the lab.

The seventh grade was also beginning the flowchart project for the semester. This teacher had the students bring their math textbooks with them. After he had explained the project and illustrated it with examples, the teacher instructed the students to choose a

mathematical process to diagram in a flowchart. After the class left the lab I resumed updating computers. I broke for lunch from 12:05-12:35.

After lunch I resumed updating computers and waited for a first grade class to come to the lab. When the first grade class (Hale) arrived I observed while the teacher explained the lesson. After explaining the lesson the teacher directed the students to log in to the computers. The teacher and students then proceeded step by step through the project, opening each folder to find the document and then completing the flow chart exercise. For this exercise the student had to drag and drop labeled pictures detailing the process of putting on shoes. As students worked I walked around and helped student where I could. I did the same with a second first grade class (Sieple?) that came to the lab for their technology class.

Each teacher and grade had their own style of teaching the technology lesson. All the classes that I observed finished the task for that period. The first, first grade teacher seemed to be more comfortable with the lesson/technology in general. The second seemed as if she had not reviewed the lesson before the class.

1.30.09

8:30 a.m.-3:00p.m.

I spent today updating computers in the lab. I finished #7 through #25. During the updating I had two computers that would not load the local profile after updating. I continued updating computers and then came back to the two that were giving me trouble. After a few failed attempts as logging in as a student I restarted the computer. This solved the problem.

The sixth and seventh grade classes that would have come to the lab did not today in order to make up a missed chapel. The first grade classes did not show either due to the fact that they were celebrating "100" days.

At the end of the day I met with Dale and spoke with him about the teacher training I will do and what the subject might be. We discussed assistive technology and that that might be a good subject for the training. We also talked about the possibility of me collaborating with the music teacher. I am not sure what form this might take, but am excited about that possibility.

2.6.09

8:30 a.m.-3:00p.m.

Dale was out sick today. I spent the morning observing the sixth and seventh grade classes in the tech lab. I was able to offer a tip to the sixth grade teacher about how to find the edges of a page in Excel by doing a "page preview". Both the sixth and seventh grade classes were beginning to put the steps that they created into a flowchart using Excel as a grid. The purpose of using Excel was to help keep the shapes aligned. The seventh grade teacher explained the shapes and what sort of process they represented in the flowchart.

It happened that the music teacher had a streamed radio program that she wanted the audio recorded. I was able to do this for her. I found the cable that I needed in one of the schools laptop bags and was able to record the audio with my laptop. Using Audacity, I recorded the program from the stream that she provided. I was then able, with her help, to figure out what section she wanted and edit the track to include the part that she wanted. This was fun for me to do.

During the afternoon, I updated the four remaining computers in the lab and then observed and helped with two first grade classes. These classes were working with flowcharts in KidPix. A template of a "morning routine" was created. The children were asked to fill in each of six different labeled boxes. The children had to draw pictures for some of the boxes and were able to use the stamp function of KidPix for others. The frustrating part of this program is that if/when a child makes a mistake, it is very difficult to erase or go back a step. The user can go revert one step only. The general eraser erases the entire page leaving a blank page. The "pencil top" eraser (more precise), is difficult to use because the cursor disappears when the user clicks to use it. We (the teachers and I) found that it was easier to exit and restart the project than try to erase parts of it.

2.13.09

8:30-3:30

This morning I researched assistive tech to prepare for a teacher training and survey. I also loaded software beginning at 9:30 a.m. After Dale was free I worked on the network changing and updating passwords. I had to change the passwords in four different places. I changed the passwords on the server, the in-house email, the school website, and on the individual machines for each teacher. This took me all day. It was interesting seeing the server and changing all the information.

2.20.09

Snow day

2.23.09

8:30-4:15

Today was a make-up for Friday the 20th. I was able to see a different group of kids than I normally see. I saw a 4th grade class and a third grade class. It is interesting to see the different manner of tech teaching that each teacher delivers. There is difference even by grade level. I also worked on planning for the computer club and the collaboration that I will be doing. I will be working with Suellen DeMattia, the music teacher. We will be producing a multimedia project with the fifth grade students. I shared my ideas with Dale about the computer club and we decided on producing a photo slide show. The club will meet one day a week for eight weeks.

Today the teachers had a tech training with Dale. They were learning how to edit/manipulate pictures in Word with the picture toolbar. I observed how Dale taught the class. He modeled the manner in which he would want the teachers to teach their tech

classes. One of the teachers had a question about saving the writing on the board before touching it.

2.27.09

8:30-3:00 p.m.

In addition to my normal classroom observation Dale introduced a new project for me to complete. We spent some time looking at how to purchase a computer. I will be researching to purchase and build a teacher computer. I learned about how to research parts to build a computer, what sites to visit and what parts affect others.

3.13.09

8:30-12:00 p.m.

The school hosted a speech-meet during which 290 students and their parents filter through the school. I worked to set the desktops on the lab computers back to the formatting they are supposed to have. Some of the students move the icons around and so other students (the younger crowd) are unable to find them. That took me about a half hour. During the rest of the time I was in the tech room loading computers. One had some software loaded, the other I had to start by erasing the hard drive. I used a program called KillDisk which overwrites the HDD with zeros. I then loaded the operating system. That is as far as I was able to get with that CPU. The other I was able to get it ready to load the specific teacher software and settings. That is as far as I could get with that one. At the end of my time there I talked with Suellen DeMattia about the collaboration that we are doing and planned specifically how the project will progress.

3.19.09

3:15 p.m.-4:15p.m.

Today was the first computer club. The club went well. Four students signed up. I detailed the project for them. I showed them two different examples of the project we will be completing over the next eight weeks. We discussed and analyzed what makes a good picture. We then walked around the school and shot some pictures, brought them back to the lab and analyzed those also. I finished the time by introducing Windows Movie Maker. The kids seemed excited and eager.

3.20.09

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

This was the last day before spring break. I spent the day with the classes I am working with (the 6th, 7th and two 1st grade classes). I also spent time in the Tech room loading computers. I spoke with the fifth grade classes about the project that the music teacher and I are collaborating on. We will be having the kids create PowerPoint slides illustrating the hymn, "How Great Thou Art". The pitch was well received. The students asked many questions and seemed excited about the project.

4.3.09

8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

Today was a full day at VCA. I worked with the classes in the computer lab and had computer club after school. I am preparing to teach in the tech classes. I will teach a 7th, 6th and two first grade classes. The projects for this quarter are centered around creating a PowerPoint presentation. The 7th and 6th grades will be using PowerPoint and the first graders will use Kid Pix. The computer club is off to a great start. The kids came in with a lot of pictures. They seem excited about creating their shows. One difficulty that surfaced was that a couple of the kids forgot either their memory card or the cable to download pictures from their camera. These students I had experiment with the different effects and transitions in Movie Maker.

4.8.09

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

I spent today switching out and reconfiguring a computer for a teacher. The teacher had complained that the computer she had was running slowly. I configured a computer for the teacher and then moved all her email accounts to the new CPU. I then replaced the old CPU with the newly configured one. After taking it back to the tech room, I found out that the old CPU had low RAM. After adding RAM, the computer ran well, without any hang-ups. I then reconfigured the old CPU to be used by another teacher, yet to be determined.

4.15.09

10:00 a.m.-3:30p.m.

I came in today to build a computer. Dale had me research all of the pieces and components that I would need and approved their purchase. After all the pieces arrived I put them together. Dale and I connected all the pieces together before putting them in the case to see that they all worked together. I was relieved when they did. I then disassembled everything and reassembled it inside the case. It was a great experience and I enjoyed it very much.

4:17.09

8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

Today was a busy day. It began with the 5th grade classes in the computer lab creating PowerPoint slides for the multimedia project that the music teacher and I are working on. The process went well and the kids displayed some great ideas as they created their slides. I then taught the 7th grade tech class. I introduced the lesson by asking about what kinds of animals the kids had been learning about. We made a list on the board. I then had the kids choose four different types of animals and researched each of them taking notes on each. In the afternoon I observed the 6th and 1st grade classes and prepared to teach the following week. Computer club went well. The kids understand the process of building a movie well. They are making great progress editing their photos and sequencing them in their movie.

4.24.09

8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

This was another busy day beginning with the 5th grade classes in the tech lab. Each class was putting finishing touches on their PowerPoint slides. Once the kids were finished with their slides we had them put the slides in the order that they wanted. The kids voted for the slides the highest number of votes going first and the least number going last. I then continued the lesson with 7th grade. This day I showed them an example presentation and we began putting all the information into the slides that they created. The sixth grade class had finished collecting their information on Roman Emperors and so we began creating the presentation. I had them create the title page and links to each page. In the 1st grade class we continued with their project and inserted a picture into Kid Pix from a shared drive. The kids then learned how to edit the size and placement of the picture within Kid Pix. A very frustrating part of the whole process is that Kid Pix has very, very limited “undo” capability. If a child makes a mistake he or she must undo without clicking or doing anything else. In many cases the child just has to start over from the beginning of the process. This is frustrating for both student and teacher. Computer club continues to go well. One of the kids asked about putting video into his movie. I told him I would bring my camera and we would try.

4.27.09

2:00 p.m.-4:15p.m.

I led a tech training today. I went in a little early and figured out the recording hardware for Friday. The training went ok. I was nervous and so fumbled over some words. I taught about virtual field trips and their use in the classroom. I was able to follow the plan that I had made, but I think I could have engaged the teachers more. After talking with Dale my thoughts were confirmed. He mentioned that I could hook the audience better if I used more questions. He also mentioned that I need to think more about the training from the teachers’ perspective, asking myself, “What will this technology do for me?” He mentioned that the lesson looked good on paper, that the presentation was, “a B+,” but that I could have been more engaging.

5.1.09

8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

Today was an eventful day. It began with a flurry of activity. Today was the day that I recorded the 5th grade classes singing, “How Great Thou Art”. The set up went well, but we (Suellen and myself) had little time to spare. We got the microphones set up. I had mic’s on the piano, violin and two on the kids. The set up took us about one half hour. After that the kids began coming in and getting situated on the risers. Once they were all situated I explained to them what we were going to have to do. We first had to do a sound check, then take a long shot of the kids while recording them singing. I then would take some pan shots and finally some close-up shots of the kids singing. The sound check took about a half an hour. I was hoping that it wouldn’t take that long, but it was time well spent. We began recording around 9:30 a.m. The kids sounded amazing.

Everything came together really well. We got the long shot and the recording in one take. I then had them sing parts of the song again and took some pan shots. I finished up with the close-up shots. It took a lot of work getting to that point, but the recording went really well. I now have to cut everything together. Right after that, I had to teach the seventh grade tech class. The class went ok. The kids are working on their PowerPoint projects. They are now adding custom animations and effects to their slides. I then had a break for lunch. After lunch I taught the sixth grade class and two first grade classes. Each class went well. I finished the day with computer club. The club is going well and the kids are making great progress on their Movie Maker projects.

5.4.09

10:00-11:00a.m., 12:00-3:30p.m.

Today was a full day. I spent an hour this morning showing the fifth graders the process of creating a project in Movie Maker. The morning was not without its difficulty as the audio file that I had created the night before was nowhere to be found on my jump drive. This meant that the kids could not hear their performance that we recorded. They were able to see the video clips of themselves singing, but these were silent, because I imported them without audio. They seemed to enjoy seeing themselves in spite of that fact. After that I left to go visit Kim Beavers at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy. She showed me the many parts of the technology program that they have at CVCA. The school houses roughly 840 students in 7-12th grade. The school has four Windows-based computer labs and a graphic arts classroom with ten Macintosh stations. The computers are renewed every three years and any technology needs are taken care of in-house. The school is running Windows XP with Office 2007 on all the machines. The graphics class uses the Adobe suite of products to manipulate their images. The teachers are responsible for creating the curriculum for the technology classes. The school offers classes in Concepts I and II, Computer Application and Web Design. In the first two classes the students are developing their typing skills and being introduced to different applications. In Computer Applications, the students are given a fuller taste of what the different application from Microsoft Office are about. If the student wants to explore technology further, he or she has the opportunity to complete a Web Design class, or Graphic Arts. The school also uses technology in the science and business classes. The school seeks to provide the students with opportunities to develop skills that they can use when they leave the school and enter college and the workforce.

5.8.09

8:30a.m. – 4:15p.m.

Today was a good, but busy day. I had meetings with Dale and with Suellen. I met with Dale to discuss the entire internship experience. I met with Suellen to work on cutting the video that we were working on together. I also finished teaching my lessons with the tech classes. I finished the day with computer club. The kids are close to finishing their projects and will be able to next week.