

Mark Vance
Deep Space Sparkle Membership

Reflection:

Technology has had a huge impact on my ability to create new and challenging lessons for my students. I am going to discuss the paid membership I subscribe to called Deep Space Sparkle.

Impact:

Lesson planning is a very time consuming process for all teachers. As an Encore teacher I have 6 lesson preps to do each day and have to prepare dozens of lessons a year. It is easy to get complacent in regards to finding the time to create new and exciting lessons. The Internet offers a great resource for finding lessons but it can become overwhelming trying to sort through all the information out there. Recently I found a site called Deep Space Sparkle. This site is designed and run by an art teacher and is specifically for elementary age students. The lessons on the site are arranged in bundles that incorporate famous artists and art movements. The site also includes training videos, a closed Facebook page and tons of resources. Through this site I am connected to art teachers all over the world. Technology has opened up access to an organized useful site that I use every day.

Intent:

Deep Space Sparkle has energized me and started to totally change my curriculum. In Deep Space Sparkle techniques, media, artists, age level and even standards organize the lessons. I can quickly find what I am looking for and then adjust it to my teaching style. It frees me up to spend more time on integrating technology and on improving my knowledge of techniques and delivery. The training videos are fantastic and are teaching me new techniques and are helping me to film my own lessons for flipping my classroom. The closed Facebook page is a great resource as well. There are guest teacher that share their experiences via Facebook live. Also, you can post questions and ideas and you get instant feedback from teachers all over the country and world. I use this to help with classroom behavior and even sequencing of lessons. It is a sounding board for all of us to ask for help and to share ideas. This is a paid membership but I use money that my PTG gives us each year to help offset the cost. It is worth the cost and will continue to help me be a better teacher each year that I use it.