Mark Vance Masters in Instructional Technology University of Akron

Reflection:

For the past two years I have been continuing my professional development by getting my masters degree in Instructional Technology at the University of Akron. With the continuing advancement of new technologies I felt that it was important to improve my knowledge in this field.

Impact:

I have been a bit stuck in my ways for the last five years or so. I have developed my teaching strategies and have fine-tuned my art curriculum. However, technology has been my weakness and I knew I needed to improve to become a better teacher and to help my students and colleagues. The classes I have been taking have helped to outline my new teaching path and have improved how I use technology. I am have started to learn how to embrace the use of technology in my art room and have already started to incorporate it into my existing lessons. I have learned how to collaborate with classroom teachers to create cross-curricular lessons that use new technology to challenge students. TPACK is now incorporated in my lesson planning and I am learning how to assist my fellow teachers with their technological needs.

Intent:

I intend to use the skills I have acquired to not only improve my teaching practices but to help the other teachers in my building and district. I am going to focus first on how I use technology in my classroom and then start to branch out to the teachers in my building. One of the main focuses is going to be the integration of the TPACK model in all my lesson plans. The way each of the classes I have taken refers to this model has ensured that I have a very good understanding of how to implement this. Another way I am going to use my newly developed skills is to help out with the coding club that was started in our building a few years ago. I had no experience with coding prior to taking classes at Akron. After the Hypermedia class and working on the eportfolio I feel I have the knowledge to help the students in this club. I had not expected to find this new skill but it will help to inspire my students. I am sure that in the future I will discover many uses for my new knowledge and look forward to the challenges ahead.