Integrating Technology

By: Rebecca Riddle

I believe in children. I believe that each individual child has the potential for greatness. I understand that each child has a unique learning style, and as their teacher, I will provide a variety of activities throughout the year to ensure that each student reaches his or her full potential.

Because we’re living in a digital world, part of helping students reach their full potential involves preparing them in the field of technology. We must provide them with the skills needed to master today’s technology, as well as prepare them to be critical thinkers and problems solvers to easily navigate future technology.

It’s amazing how quickly students can become proficient in current technology, and teachers can use this as a resource in the classroom. Even my one-year-old son knows how to locate the photos on my iPhone and scroll through them by swiping his finger across the screen. Teachers can use this interest in technology to engage the students to learn the material.

As we incorporate technology into the classroom, it is important to keep all students in mind. Many schools are replacing textbooks with electronic versions. However, not every student has access to a computer. Because of this, digital textbooks could widen the gap between the wealthy and the poor. The objective should not be to replace all other forms of instructions, but instead, use technology as an additional tool. Students can greatly benefit from learning techniques that involve mobile technology (cell phones, MP3 players, netbooks) and Web tools (social networks, virtual worlds, blogs, online games).

To be effective teachers in today’s digital world, we must provide our students with the necessary knowledge and skills in the field of technology, and hopefully spark an interest that encourages the students to learn more. We must also teach our students about the ethical use of technology, including privacy, respect, plagiarism, cyber-bullying, and codes of conduct.