

# Lifelong Goals

## **Introduction:**

Within my classroom, relationship with my students is always an ongoing goal. I am a firm believer and big proponent of building relationships with my students to ensure they feel welcome and encouraged. By building relationships with my students it seems to affect every other part of my classroom culture, in a positive way. While relationship will always be at the top my goals list amongst my teaching career, there are other goals that I am seeking to implement and strengthen as my teaching career continues. A few of these goals are:

1. Integrating Technology in the classroom
2. Implementing new and effective teaching strategies
3. Implementing Number talks

Each of these goals have been weighing on my heart for the majority of the past two years. As I have gone through this Master's program I have been inspired within my own teaching to implement and cultivate new methods and techniques to improve my overall student learning and classroom environment.

## **Integrating Technology in the classroom**

After completing my first technology course in my MAED program I was able to see the potential technology has to impact the classroom. I have never been technological myself, but the courses that I have taken have shown me that it's not as difficult as I had once made it. Even though I have already begun to integrate technology in the classroom, I believe that there are many more technological practices that could be implemented in my curriculum. Technology is something that is a very evident part of our everyday lives and our students LOVE it! So why not create opportunities for them to use technology in Math on a regular basis? I am careful when first introducing new technology because at times I have seen technology used in a superficial manner. Therefore as I integrate technology within my classroom I want it to be an authentic experience for my students that truly affects and strengthens their understanding of the material.

## **Implementing New and Effective Teaching Strategies**

In education there are many strategies that are being talked about, brought to the forefront, and even implemented in the classroom without giving a second thought. While new strategies are exciting and can be beneficial in the classroom many times these strategies are fads and quickly fade out. My goal is that as I am researching and learning more about different classroom strategies that correlate with my subject, mathematics, that I find strategies that are lasting and beneficial to my overall students ability to learn the material. Throughout my masters career I have been fortunate enough to learn about a wide variety of teaching strategies that have been shown to be effective when implemented correctly.

## **Implementing Number Talks**

I had my first encounter with Number Talks about a year and a half ago now and I have been in LOVE ever sense. I had colleagues at different districts implement them and seen immense growth in their students overall ability and problem solving skills. I even dabbled a bit using them in my own classroom as bell work off and on and found success but was not able to fully implement them into my curriculum for the year. I am still learning

how to properly implement them within my classroom and need to complete some more research before I implement it into my curriculum. This is something that I will be working towards in the coming years and will be implementing into my yearly curriculum.

**Conclusion:**

What I love about having goals is that they keep me focused. When I am focused then I am more likely to work towards and accomplish my goals. Each of these goals I believe are important to my professional growth and will have great implications on my students and their growth. I also believe that these goals are attainable and with some research and practice each of these goals could be implemented with success.