

## What's Next

As a teacher, I am always looking forward. Whether it is in the next few minutes during a math rotation, lesson planning for the upcoming weeks, or long term goals that could affect my career and students. Throughout my time in Michigan State University's MAET program, I have learned a lot about how technology can shape education in both big and small ways. This learning has shaped how I have thought about my future as an educator and what I can do for my students. I would love to explore coding education for early elementary students. I would also like to learn more about Personalized Learning and how to incorporate technology into these models in a systematic way. Lastly, towards the end of my career, I would like to step into a new role of being a Librarian and Media Specialist where I can share my love of books and technology together.

### Goal #1

Everywhere you look there is some type of technology staring right back at you. Children nowadays have exposure to technology early on and they use it frequently. But do they know how it works? Most likely not. Are they curious to figure out how their cherished video game is made? Absolutely! With the learning and research that I have done, I believe I could bring bits and pieces of the coding world to K-2 students without them feeling overwhelmed. Coding is simply a series of directions or commands that you are telling the computer to do. Don't students follow directions every day anyways? Why not teach them explicitly that computers do it too? [Project Lead the Way](#) has an activity called [Rosie's Runtime](#) where students get their first look at coding unplugged. This activity is just the start of incorporating coding into early elementary classes and teaching students that coding can be done by anyone!

### Goal #2

We have been in the 21<sup>st</sup> century where learning looks different or it has become more student centered. Where the teacher is no longer lecturing the students but students learn through exploration and questioning. This could be done through the framework of Personalized Learning. This framework can look a multitude of different ways and there are many different degrees of personalized learning that can be implemented into the classroom. While I have utilized [Project Based Learning \(PBL\)](#) as a form of Personalized Learning in my own classroom and seen the benefits, I want to do so much more. Students have accountability, curiosity, and collaboration through PBL and I believe there can be more. The Institute of Personalized Learning, has a [YouTube channel](#) where they give examples and break down key components to personalized learning. By watching these videos and more specific research, I can slowly implement different parts of the framework into my classroom without feeling overwhelmed and possibly add technology pieces along the way!

### Goal #3

Eventually, I would like to dedicate my final years in my beloved teaching profession as a Librarian and Media Specialist. I have always had a love for books since I was young and I want to share that love with all of my students and colleagues. I would also like to take my Library time

and incorporate technology time in as well. I would take time to teach digital literacy, coding, publishing, storytelling, and many other technology pieces. Although this goal will come in time (since I am only in my third year of teaching), I can still slowly learn about Library Science and bringing technology and collaboration into the space. While there are many online resources out there to help me succeed in this future position, I make my way back to a physical book: [The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Elementary Library Media Program by Carl A. Harvey](#). This book covers the bases about budgets, running a library, incorporating technology, and so on. This will be a definite read in the upcoming future!

Technology is at the forefront of my teaching, especially since of the year we have had with virtual teaching throughout a pandemic. Therefore, technology is either front and center or intertwined in the above goals. Since we have the technology, why not learn to use it in efficient ways and lead to student creativity. While my three goals of teaching young students to code, incorporating Personalized learning into my classroom, and becoming a Library and Media Specialist are my overarching goals, I still have one goal that will always stay true. Be there for all of my students and create a second home for them where they learn to love learning and becoming a well rounded person.