One of my most important goals in teaching is getting students engaged in learning and helping them find enjoyment in the content and the learning process itself. I have found that one strategy for achieving this goal is integrating technology into curriculum and instruction. During my teaching internship I used Powerpoint, websites, digital photography and self-created web lessons to enhance my teaching and incite enthusiasm in the classroom. Not only did the students’ engagement increase, so did their ability to understand concepts because of the way the technology allowed me to present material. I do not believe simply using technology will increase learning, but if it is integrated thoughtfully alongside other great teaching strategies, it can really make a difference for students.

To continue my own learning and reflections on teaching, I wish to pursue the Online Master’s with a concentration in educational technology, particularly as it relates to mathematics instruction. I am currently teaching middle school mathematics and would be able to directly apply my studies in the classroom. As part of my studies I would also like to continue working on my website, www.msu.edu/user/merril23, where I will compile educational technology resources, ideas and accomplishments.

I initially developed my website during the Spring 2006 semester, when I participated in the pilot section of CEP 416: Teaching and Learning with Technology. This class showed me that I had found my niche. I love to teach and I love to explore new technologies—combining these two passions makes sense, and I think it is what will make me a great teacher.