

This is an edited version of my opening and closing remarks last night at our PTSA General Meeting regarding our One to World device program. I have been asked to post them here.

Tonight we will share a vision.

This was my vision and I worked with a talented design team that helped me articulate it and get a former superintendent to say “yes.”

Overnight it became our vision, those of us who were there for the planning and that crazy, fabulous, first year.

The vision has grown with each staff member, each new parent, each new student. Each has brought new skills, new ideas, and new passions that have expanded our vision.

In particular the vision for a “Tech School” has grown and matured and we want to share some of that with you tonight.

“Tech School” is no longer the term we use, and has not been used for a long time. We outgrew that label as we focused on PBL, SEL, and 21st Century Skills. Technology is simply integrated in those learning environments -- technology does not constitute a learning environment on its own. Again, technology is not a stand alone at QAE, it is a part of all those.

To fulfill this vision we’ve filled our classrooms and school with innovative, creative teachers who have Growth Mindset FOR their students and they have begun to construct an environment where all tools are available for every learner in the classroom. This device is just one tool. There are others, paper, pencils, books, whiteboards, overhead projectors, chairs, and tables.

Comments on Growth Mindset

- From the book *Mindset* by Carol Dweck
- Belief that there are two mindsets, fixed and growth
- Many of us grow up with fixed mindsets. I am what I am. I may be smart but when things get hard I’m not *that* smart. I give up easily because I don’t believe I can do it.
- Some grow up with or develop a growth mindset. I may not know how to do it--YET. But I will when you teach me or I when I figure it out or when I persevere.
- Having a growth mindset for our students when they might not, yet, have one of their own is paramount for success

That’s a lot of vision stuff, a little pie-in-the-sky maybe, but very real to me and to us. How does this look for your child?

I believe this is what it looks like:

These devices are not screens, they are cameras, video cameras, audio recorders, multi-media productions devices that are used to capture and hold student creativity and learning. It's not so much about what learning students get from the device and whatever apps they are using, it's about what students learning gets captured there for them to share, to re-engage, and to self-assess.

I can't stress enough that this is the key. This is not about screen time, this is about a device that captures and holds the student learning. From there to the world as we stress with our One to World motto. You will see examples of that happening every day in both our very early grades and in the upper grades, where they have had their devices only a few weeks.

A refrain we've used since our opening day is-*We're building this plane as we're flying*. We are learning every day from each other, from teachers outside our walls, and most importantly from our students. That is how we'll grow and our plans will develop naturally, as we learn together. This absolutely is happening as you will hear in a minutes.

This has been a lot of introduction. It's time to see what it looks like. Molly, Julie, Devin and some of our students are going to take over to share their learning with their devices.

The next part of our evening was a fabulous time of student and staff sharing their learning. We had demonstrations from last year's first graders, this year's first graders, Ms. Colando's fourth graders, and readings from Mr. Liner's third grade.

At the same time fourth graders from Ms. Colando's class were using social media to share the evening events. Henry B. was [live tweeting](#) and Tyler W. was sharing his thoughts on the classroom blog. I don't believe I can post a link to his KidBlog so here is his summary:

At 7:45 Mr. Elliot started the one to world discussion. Around that time Mr. Elliot introduced someone from Seattle Schools and he talked for, about 15 minutes then he started his speech about the one to world. At 8:05 Ms. Meck and 2 of her students she had last year these students talked about what they were doing in class last year with iPads. Then 2 more of her students that she has right now, showed an app called Book Creator were she taught us how to write a book. Then another student came up and showed us a BOOK that she made on Book Creator on Ruby Bridges. (Ruby Bridges was the first black to go to a white school.) Then Ms. Smith came up and one her students showed a MATH BOOK she made on Book Creator about skip counting. Then Ms. Colando came up and talked about what we were doing with the iPads we got. Then Gray and Scout got up and talked about the Mystery Skypes we've been doing. Then Mr. Liner got up and talked about the digital Portfolio side of the iPads, like Educreations. Then Ms. Colando got up and shared the agreements we made. Then Mr. Elliot came up and shared the closing comments and answered the questions people asked here and on the sight they have on the Internet.

Closing remarks:

How many of you own a device? Smartphone, iPad, Surface, Android? This is mine. It's a camera, a video camera, a recording device, it's a book, a clock, map, coach, radio, music creator and player, sharing, movie watcher and movie maker and on and on. Why do we have this? It's all of the above for us and it fits in our pocket, purse, brief case. If all of those features are important to us why would they not be important to our students.

It was not available to us when we were students, we had encyclopedias, film projectors, chalkboards, hanging wall maps, and video production studios that took up a room and cost \$100,000.

This is our student's learning tool. It will be in their hands and it will become a repository of their learning with the guidance of skilled teachers-that we never had when these devices came into our lives. I believe that may be why we walk into poles, step into holes, and drive distracted with our devices.

It's our belief that our students will learn from kindergarten to see this as their learning tool and their showcase, not a selfie device, not a constant distraction. It is already being seen that way. We've watched students correct each other, seen students ignore the selfie taking student and gather around Cameron F. so he can show them how he used his brand new device to classify rocks and minerals.

We are excited to share this with you tonight and you will be able to see much more learning on classroom sites and blogs. Thank you so much for partnering with us in this learning adventure.

Final notes: Thursday, February 5th

As I was walking from the lunchroom to the Treehouse with Ms. Colando's class I was trying to remember who did the blogging and who did the tweeting. I said, "Henry did the tweeting and Tyler did the blogging". At that point a young lady who must remain unnamed chimed in with, "And you did a lot of talking". So there you go, that about sums up the evening.