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Professor Kenton

### Learning Environment Assignment

As a High School student, I attended Bethesda-Chevy-Chase (BCC). It is a part of the Montgomery County School System in Maryland. BCC is currently made up of 1788 students. More than 55 countries are represented in the student body and the ethnic breakdown goes as follows; 59% Caucasian (non-Hispanic), 21% African-American, 14% Hispanic, and 6% Asian. BCC High School is a community I would love to work for because I loved going there as a student and always thought it was ran well and the teachers more often than not, looked very satisfied with their careers.

The BCC mission statement is “to develop lifelong learners; independent, critical thinkers; and responsible, compassionate global citizens. B-CC empowers its diverse student body by offering a rigorous instructional program as well as a wide range of extracurricular activities, supported and enriched by the surrounding community.” Montgomery County symbolizes one of the best school districts in the country and teachers within this district are also the highest paid. Technology within BCC High School was always above average in my opinion. When I began there as a Freshmen, a Cyber Café had just opened inside the school that served as a place where students could eat and socialize but also have access to computers. With this privilege came certain guidelines. The Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), for student accessible computers was that they were used for

educational purposes. However, students would be allowed to go on sites such as ESPN.com or other sport related (Non-social network) sites. They even had firewalls made so students would not be able to access certain sites such as Facebook even if they tried. Although there are ways around these firewalls, it still served as a very useful facility. Technology at BCC is up to date when comparing it to High School's nationwide. For example, the band and orchestra even possessed technology equipment that allowed them to each have their own tuners. This was the sign of a well-funded program within the school. Another way technology impacted my learning while attending BCC was in the foreign language department when I took Spanish. We constantly used Language Labs that were places designed for foreign language students to use computer technology to record themselves as well as listening to computerized voices speaking the language. I also took my oral exams using these devices and recorded myself which my teacher would later listen to and grade. This gives the teachers the ability to replay and be able to accurately grade a student.

I believe technology can be used in a positive way to further benefit students in their learning. With that said however, I do believe there is such thing as too much technology advancements and we as educators will need to be able to find the correct balance if we are to ensure the highest potential for our students. We need to always remember that no technology can do what a teacher can do face to face with a student. With that said, I believe technology should and will serve as a major part of the future education curriculum. As seen in the demographics of the school, there is a strong presence of minority students. This has impacted my teaching styles and what I want to do as a teacher because many teachers do not like big classes that they cannot control. I feel that I would enjoy teaching a

big class of students in High School that carries a lot of diversity because I can relate extremely well to it and have more to offer the students than most teachers would. I agree with the Project Based Learning style of teaching because I feel that many students need motivation to do well in many cases and lecturing does not get the job done. Students need to get up and experience real life situations at a young age so they know how to apply themselves once they get to College and move on with their careers.

### Bibliography

- "Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School." *B-CC HS*. Web. 25 May 2012.  
<<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/about/>>.