Project Planning Sheet
Abby Soltis
Desktop Publishing Assignment

Goals: The goal of this assignment is to create an aesthetically pleasing brochure to give the parents on Meet the Teacher Night. I am a new teacher in the district and I want parents to understand my teaching philosophy and the ideas that I plan to use in my classroom. This includes the mastery of new computers allocated to the district. I want to prove to the parents that I am well versed in computer technology and will do a quality job teaching their students.

Content Standards:
All of my Biology courses would be highly integrated with technology and I will use the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) to integrate technology into my classroom. These include six main principles of teaching:

A. TECHNOLOGY OPERATIONS AND CONCEPTS Teachers demonstrate a sound understanding of technology operations and concepts.

B. PLANNING AND DESIGNING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS AND EXPERIENCES Teachers plan and design effective learning environments and experiences supported by technology.

C. TEACHING, LEARNING, AND THE CURRICULUM Teachers implement curriculum plans that include methods and strategies for applying technology to maximize student learning.

D. ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION Teachers apply technology to facilitate a variety of effective assessment and evaluation strategies.

E. PRODUCTIVITY AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE Teachers use technology to enhance their productivity and professional practice.

F. SOCIAL, ETHICAL, LEGAL, AND HUMAN ISSUES Teachers understand the social, ethical, legal and human issues surrounding the use of technology in PK-12 schools and apply those principles in practice.

Description of Assignment:
This desktop publishing assignment will be created with Microsoft Publisher and use various design elements to create a brochure about my classroom in order to introduce the parents to my classroom and get them excited to help motivate their students with the new technologies in the classroom.
Meet The Teacher

Abby Soltis is a 2012 graduate of Butler University. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Middle Secondary Education as well as Biology. She is very excited to be back in her home town of Des Moines to teach in the school district she grew up in. Her interests include cooking, reading, playing with her bulldog Sally and of course learning about science! She is very excited for her first year of teaching and cannot wait to bring new ideas and technology into her Biology classroom.
Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is key to success for students even as the students enter high school. Since this class will not be your typical lecture-exam course it is important for you to keep up with your students progress. Weekly feedback will be available for you and your students on the class website. With your help your student will easily become accustomed to this new type of learning and become more prepared for future careers. Taking a more active role in your students education will allow your student to experience a higher level of success. If you ever have any questions about your students learning please feel free to contact me.

Class Schedule

- **September**– Zoology
  Students will visit the Blank Park Zoo and identify the Genus and Species of each organism they see. Upon returning they will create a photo montage of the trip.

- **October**– Ecology
  Students will learn about the environmental problems we are currently facing and research one such local problem. They will give a presentation about what we can do to save our earth.

- **November**–Botany
  Students will discover the wonderful world of plants. Students will create a simulation of a cellular process that plants undergo during their lifetime.

- **December**–Cell Biology
  Students will examine microorganisms under a microscope and then design their own experiment. Students will 'publish' a paper on their findings.

Hands-On Learning

Biology will be taught this year with a hands-on approach to science. The students will learn by doing and will spend minimal time listening to lectures. We will used primarily project-based learning. This will allow your students to explore their own interests in the field of biology as well as become self-motivators. We will be doing many science experiments as well as off-site visits to promote the curriculum we are learning in class. All assignments and assessments will be done using an IPad, which students will be provided with during the semester. A variety of different technologies will be used in the classroom to help prepare students from the career field. We will be using a variety of interactive science programs on the IPads as well. This semester will include a variety of new experiences that will acclimate your child to a new, specialized type of learning.

Classroom IPads

New IPads have just been donated to the district and our classroom has been selected to pilot this new program. Each student will be assigned their own...
Reflection
In my classroom, students will be expected to use Desktop Publishing programs in order to visually display a topic. This skill will be applicable to students’ future careers and early mastery is essential. This will also enhance students’ communication skills, which will also be useful for future careers. My future lesson plan will be to have students create a brochure or some other type of desktop publishing product to display their chosen biology topics. These will be displayed and voted on by other students and teachers and the best brochure will be posted on the school website. This will get the students personally invested in their projects and make biology more relatable to their everyday lives. This is a great way to use a hands-on approach in a biology classroom.

In my brochure I also included other possible desktop publishing and computer projects. I think all these things will help motivate students on the topic of Biology. I know that science is not for everyone, so introducing these elements into the classroom will help students be motivated to learn a topic they are not necessarily interested in. These projects give students something material, other than test scores, to prove they are learning. These projects are also something that students can take personal pride in.

In my brochure, I talked about hands-on learning because it’s definitely not something that parents are familiar with. I want to be on the same page with parents about what their student is doing in the classroom and how they are progressing. Hands-on learning doesn’t offer the same type of feedback that tests do and this is something that the parents and students will have to get used to. Since tests won’t be the biggest form of assessment for students, it’s important for students to be equally motivated. At first, students may have trouble with this and that is where parent involvement comes in.

Overall, I am happy with the way my project turned out. It is a friendly brochure that will introduce parents to my teaching philosophy and get my first year of teaching started on the right foot as far as parent involvement in their student’s education goes.