

What uses do you see for handheld devices in classroom instruction? What other newer technologies do you see as having potential for educators?

What a terrific idea! I never thought of using handhelds in this way. I used to own a handheld and absolutely loved it. Though I don't have it now...I wish I did. I also teach fifth grade and listening to Tony Vincent made me think of all the applications I could use with handhelds in my classroom. The students were so excited to learn and that they could teach someone else to use the same applications is amazing. That is when you truly know that they understand. There are several uses for handhelds in classroom instruction. There levels of engagement were extremely high. Handhelds would be great because they are one-to-one. Everyone can learn at their own pace when playing games or using an application. It would be a good way to check for understanding amongst students instead of just thinking that all of the students know. Students also get immediate feedback if their answer is correct. Having an electronic portfolio would be nice not only for students to see past work but also for the teacher to look back and see the growth.

There are several new technologies that are coming into place in education. At my school we have the smart boards, projectors, and laptops in fifth and sixth grades. All the middle and high schools also have the software. While I do not believe they are being used to their full advantage, I think it will soon be an integral part of learning. I-pods have a lot of potential for educators. I'm not sure if that is something my district would spend money on but if a teacher has one to use it would be very helpful. Students are very interested in technology and I believe that if technology is used, students will be more engaged.

I'm ready to write a grant for handhelds! Easier said then done=o)