

My MIL Philosophy:

MIL, or media and information literacy, is the knowledge an individual has to be able to understand how to search, create, and connect information from all forms of media including the use of the internet, social networks, and other various technical resources. As educators, it is important to care about MIL because students are growing up in a time when all professions will require knowledge and literacy with technology. We should be exposing children to different ways of using technology for educational purposes and career outlook. It is important for students to be MI-literate, meaning they know how to effectively use technology in order to search, create, and compile information, in today's society. For academic reasons, higher level educators have the expectation that students will be MI-literate prior to walking into their classroom. In the same way, so do employers. On a more personal level, individuals in today's society do much of their communication through social media, email, and other technical avenues. It is important to be MI-literate in order to be candidates in today's work and social environment. Providing students with the experience and opportunities to learn how to effectively use technology to expand their overall knowledge, better prepares them for what they will face in their professional lives. As the global use of technology in most professions continually increases, students must be MI-literate in order to be able to excel in their future careers.

I aim to have several goals to approach MIL in the classroom. I find it important to incorporate media into almost every lesson, if applicable. In the classroom students will find a safe place to explore media resources and discover new ways of obtaining information, as well as learning how to use the information they gather. Students seem to have more interest in subjects and remain engaged in class when they have the opportunity to use technology as a part of their learning. All subject matters can be tied to technology and media, providing multiple resources for information in all subjects. For example, in social studies, I plan to have a unit where students make a timeline on the computer of all the historical events we have studied thus far. They will then fill in the gaps with other events that they will find by researching on their own. This will provide students with an opportunity to explore the internet, searching for reputable sources that contain the information they are looking for, as well as use technology to create the timeline. This promotes MIL by giving students a direction to search information, leading them to find credible sources with events to fill their timeline. I feel that MIL can be implemented in several different ways throughout the year, and will be beneficial as students reach their goals in their future.



Because MIL will be promoted in the classroom, I feel that students should continually practice these skills at home. Most students use some form of media on a daily basis, whether it is social media, searching various websites, listening to the radio, or even reading a magazine, students are constantly being

exposed to media outside of the classroom. I encourage you, as parents, to find ways to make these forms of technology less social and more academic. For example, try sharing an interesting and fact filled article on your child's facebook page and encourage them to read it, or private message them the link so that they can explore on their own time. Another way to promote MIL is to provide them with magazines that contain useful information and play interesting news talkshows on the morning radio during your driving to school. The best way for parents to get involved in promoting MIL is by using the desire students already have for technology and finding ways to positively spin it towards an academic and educational benefit. Encourage students to use programs on their computer, show them how to create charts and graphs for chores, and use these around your home. Play off of what your children already know and enjoy, and find ways to spin it and make it more information and academically based. If parents and educators work together to promote MIL in children's daily lives, they will be overall more prepared for their future education and professions.

Resources Parents Can Use:

- Facebook Articles
- Twitter hashtags and live chats
- Academic games
- Following political figures on social networks
- Playing academic games with students
- Giving children a web hunt (online scavenger hunt) for students to discover information about a given topic.

If students are exposed to media in a social and educational light, they will find ways that their interest in social networks and the internet will aide them in their future careers. It is important for parents and educators to promote the same concepts in order for students to experience complete success. I plan to encourage MIL in the classroom as much as possible in order to do what is most important for young students in grade school, which is to prepare them to be successful in their future. Being literate with media will be a key to their future success.