

THE VIEW FROM HERE

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Is it possible to admire a person and dislike the person at the same time? I found myself feeling this way about Steve Jobs as I read his biography written by Walter Isaacson. Beyond the traits that made Steve Jobs both admirable and difficult to like, his influence continues to play a major role in technology. Apple is a highly recognized and respected company by people throughout the world. Steve Jobs simply would not compromise on quality.

The last Apple product that Steve Jobs was instrumental in designing and marketing was the iPad. He designed the iPad to be user friendly, mobile, with the ability to store and operate a myriad of applications, including textbooks for students.

Will we recognize our K-12 schools fifteen to twenty years from now? Will there be traditional classrooms? Will there be print materials- textbooks, library books? Instant assessment by instructors as they work online with students, sharing documents, is becoming the norm in many school districts including ours.

Just as Jobs would not compromise on quality, I believe the same applies to our public schools. We will make wise use of technology only when we prioritize professional development. Our teachers must understand how the prudent use of technology will increase student learning and improve instruction. Assessment will be formative, timely and at the heart of standards based grading and instruction.

Classrooms of the early 1900's were not drastically different from our classrooms of today. The accepted belief that the teacher was the center of the classroom and that the students would be the passive receivers of knowledge endured for many centuries throughout the world. Thanks to technology and research , teaching and learning have changed dramatically is highly adaptive to the rapid pace of change.

The one common trait of our schools that will not change is the important role that families play in the education of our children. The Poynette School District will continue to work closely with the home to maximize the quality of education of every child.