

ASTE Conference 2017

Anchorage, AK

February 18th – 21st

This was my first time attending an entire ASTE conference. Several years ago I attended for a day. I found the majority of the sessions highly beneficial toward assisting me with ideas for taking our school further down the road of personalized education. It was particularly reassuring to see and hear many of the ideas expressed by leaders at the conference are things that we have been working towards for the past ten years (i.e. student lead conferences, student empowerment, choice, teaching kids rather than classes, building individual student schedules rather than course schedules, etc.). Nikolaevsk was fortunate to have two teachers (Krista Parrett and Robanne Stading) and one student (Clara Stading) also in attendance. Robanne and Clara also presented two separate sessions.

Nikolaevsk teachers are already preparing to do a book talk on *The Innovator's Mindset* by George Couros. Three of us have already received our copies with more on the way. One idea that we have already begun to discuss is based on Fig 1 "What do you want kids to do with technology". This section discusses "wrong" and "right" answers as far as using technology as a learning tool or outcome. Discussions have centered around the fact that one could replace the word "Technology" with "Math", "Science", "LA", etc. and the way "we" cover these subjects is not much different than the "wrong" ways listed on the chart. It's going to take a lot of "soil building" and paradigm shifting to get genuine reform in the "classroom". These are exciting times and I am grateful for our forward thinking staff.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Dusk".

3/6/17