Completing this Capstone was kind of an overwhelming experience for me. In the beginning when planning what to do and writing the proposal, there was a lot of back and forth with putting together ideas. It took a lot of assistance from the professor at the time and a few meetings with my principal to put the many ideas into what was thought to be a great Capstone idea. Coming into the 2017-2018 year teaching a new grade and having new responsibilities with the kindergarten team caused the capstone to take a turn. The new capstone being implemented worked with CTLS math assessments and math strategies and resources. Finding time to implement parts of the Capstone experience to the kindergarten team was rough due to time limitations for all parties involved. Finishing the capstone experience in time was a hurdle due to CTLS assessments not being required for kindergarten until the beginning of the third nine weeks, taking the first half of the year to teach kindergarteners how to appropriately use technology, time before the final assessment can be given, and having to wait the full 3rd nine weeks before taking the final assessment with students on CTLS. There will be follow up to this capstone experience for the remainder of this school year. The kindergarten team will continue to assess on CTLS to obtain data and to follow student progress.

Through this capstone I learned that when facilitating technology and when taking a leadership role, good relationships are key. I feel that good relationships have always been a strong point of mine but this capstone has pushed me to use that skill more. I also learned that when teaching new technology and taking time to learn new technology before teaching it, you have to be prepared to g through some complications and be prepared for some things not to work out the way you as the leader expected. I got trained on the CTLS assess site during the beginning of the school year and I worked with my team for the first half of the year and through the third nine weeks. Throughout just those three nine weeks there were changes to the CTLS website and to preparing and creating assessments. This at times became frustrating for me as a leader, but I had to come to the understanding that this can happen at any time as a technology leader.

I went from my capstone originally being for the entire staff when I was planning, to it only focusing on my kindergarten team. I feel that my team was on board and I feel thatI did a good job building my relationship with them but time and workload was not on pour side. The kindergarten team at Russell consists of six homeroom teachers. Two of which teach the Dual Immersion program. This program causes these two teachers to usually meet and plan on their own and it requires a great load of their “free” time. The remaining four of us are either new to kindergarten or have not taught kindergarten in a while. This causes the majority of our before school, after school and planning time to be spent figuring out the many things we need to be successful in the classroom. I spend as much time presenting and sharing the information for my capstone, but I had to be respectful of what all the teachers had going on and I also feel that I overwhelmed myself with my capstone.

All of the experiences through the capstone experiences relate to the knowledge, skills and dispositions that I have as an upcoming technology coach. This experienced helped me see the importance of relationship and having an understanding of what the teachers in your school need and want. I learned that if you want teachers to buy in and give a lot of their time to what you are presenting it has to benefit them in the many other things they have to get done.

I would tell anyone working on implementing or coaching a team through a new strategy or new technology, narrow in on one thing at a time. My capstone had a few different focuses and it became not just an overwhelming amount of information coming at my team but it became overwhelming for me as the presenter/leader. I should have taken one idea focused on implementing it and based on how that went and what teachers wanted, focused on another topic after. Also, I would advice technology leaders to always be aware of time and be aware that we have great ideas that we want to share and implement but we need to be aware of the amount of time it actually takes to implement.

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