

Dear Hiring Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity.

My father first taught me the power of using a computer, breaking it, fixing it, and using it again. My mother first taught me the power of my stories, writing them down, and reading them aloud. I love teaching students how to discover their own voices, to improve their critical thinking, to write with passion and purpose, to read challenging texts, and to create meaningful inquiry into ideas that matter to them. And I love how all of those elements can grow with the integration of the arts and technology.

Literature is my subject area, and I have always brought the arts and technology into my classroom and to my colleagues. At Santa Monica High School, I constructed the first online-only English Language Arts classroom, the first Website Design program, and also the first student-run, low-power FM and online radio station with digital recording studio.

Over the past 13 years, I have continued to innovate with the arts and technology in the classroom at New Roads High School. My students and I explore themes and concepts found in literature by experimenting with digital narrative techniques, virtual reality image-making, essays written without words, and computer game programming. I am both teacher and teacher-as-learner – my students introduce software and current trends in communication, and I, in return, bridge the decades to the enduring English Language Arts standards of reading, writing, thinking, listening, and speaking well.

I stay current in Educational Technology by completing coursework, attending conferences, and achieving certifications that benefit me, my students, and my colleagues.

For the past two years, and currently, I have had the privilege to explore all of these issues on a more in-depth and rigorous level in the doctoral program at Loyola Marymount University for Educational Leadership for Social Justice. My dissertation focuses on an analysis of Educational Technology practices and theories for the purpose of putting forth a new approach to serve as a theoretical framework for new classrooms and new software that I am also proposing.

My current studies offer a frontier for creativity, intellect, research, and social justice. I see the same potential in the English Language Arts classroom. Working collaboratively with students and colleagues is what I love best. I look forward to sharing with you more about how my background and current studies intersect with your school in a variety of ways and discovering if you also see this as an excellent fit.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bryan Sanders