

Wouter Laleman – Teaching Philosophy

I am a Teacher Librarian who fully embraces **technology** as a means to enhance teaching and learning. Thank you for letting me briefly give you a feel for the kind of work I currently do for our students.

Over the past five school years the American School in Japan piloted a **1:1 iPad and MacBook program**. As the Teacher Librarian, I teamed up with the Instructional Technology Coach to help bring the newest technologies to our teachers and students. We introduced tech savvy ways to brainstorm and collaborate using Titanpad and Padlet, search the internet and organize findings using SlingNote, present results using iMovie, Aurasma and many others. As a result, I know how to apply technology tools to create a differentiated, collaborative classroom.

The **library as a welcoming hub** for learning and reading remains crucial to the mission of any quality school. By creatively mixing up quizzes, reading challenges, author visits, reading clubs and library sleepovers, we make sure our patrons' enthusiasm for reading thrives. A flexible, technologically advanced space, the library is used by collaborating teams large and small, for video and music recording, delivering presentations and STEM activities. In addition to providing resources that support the curriculum and assisting patrons, the librarian reaches out and spends a good deal of time (team) teaching in classrooms. Our virtual library portal gives our patrons easy access to the databases, eBooks and audiobooks they need.

Universities and businesses today identify critical thinking, **research skills** and teamwork as essential. Our curriculum reflects that need. In a 1:1 environment, an amazing wealth of information is at our students' fingertips. It is our job to help them capitalize. As students go through the Research Cycle, we teach what they need to know, as they need to know it. 10-minute sessions on asking questions, interpreting Google Search Results, finding appropriate educational videos and navigating websites are fully integrated into the research process. We promote ethical use of information by piloting an innovative time saving way for ES students to keep a bibliography, using Google apps in combination with QR codes.

Collaboration is key to this integrated approach to information literacy. Homeroom teachers, Curriculum Director, Instructional Technology Coach and Teacher Librarian hold frequent (in)formal meetings. Guided by the principals of Design Thinking we plan units that closely align with our school's mission and desired Learning Outcomes. We collaborate all the way through the actual delivery of the lessons, debrief and reiterate as needed.

Technology has much enriched my **Professional Learning Network**. Twitter, RSS and webinars keep me updated on the latest educational developments. In 2002, I co-

founded a professional network for International School Librarians in Japan, which is still going strong. As a leader in this group, I set up PD opportunities for my colleagues in Japan, inviting and organizing funding for speakers from abroad.

I am a flexible and innovative teacher, always on the lookout to **improve** my teaching through learning. After 11 amazing years at ASIJ, a top school in a wonderful country, I am ready to bring my experience to help another great school get even better.

I am looking forward to an opportunity to talk with you about a possible collaboration.

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