

Reflecting on Graduate School:

This Is Not the End

By: Kamille Samborski

When I applied to the Master of Arts in Education online program at Michigan State University, my main goal was to become a more effective teacher and become an expert in the area of my greatest passion: literacy.

Thinking about this takes me back to why I decided to become a teacher in the first place. When I look back on my own elementary school experience, I am overcome with positive feelings and some of the fondest memories of my lifetime. The only way I could stay in elementary school beyond the fifth grade was by becoming a teacher. If I can give my students those warm, comforting feelings and lasting memories every school year that my teachers left me with, then I will feel fulfilled.

My graduate school personal statement read, “As I am now approaching the final quarter of my second year as an elementary teacher, I continue to reflect on a question I oftentimes receive, “Why did you choose to become a teacher?”. Simply, I feel as if I was born to teach. I truly feel so fortunate and empowered to have the opportunity to play a role in a child’s education for the ten months while they are in my classroom and later throughout their entire lifetime.”

These feelings remain, only they are stronger today than semesters ago. Now that I am preparing to graduate and exit the MAED program, I am walking away with knowledge, experiences, and confidence that will make me a more effective teacher, and this makes me feel even more as if I was born to teach. The passion, interest, engagement, and amount of time and energy I was inspired to invest in my work as an MAED student proved to me that I chose the right program and career path.

As I am getting ready to graduate and receive my Master of Arts in Education, I realize this is not the end. As an educator, being a lifelong learner will always remain a goal of mine. My main goal of becoming the best teacher I can be is going to be a journey that I will continue on throughout my entire career life, but receiving my Master of Arts through the MAED program is certainly a step I have taken towards achieving this goal.