

Teacher Spotlight on Mr Setshaba Mobe from Summerville Primary



Free State's Summerville Primary School is situated in Welkom and is part of Telkom Foundation's Connected Schools Program. Our spotlight for this month is on Mr Setshaba Mobe who is an Economic and Management Sciences educator for grade 9 learners at the school. Mr Mobe has an undying passion for teaching and learning and he believes that keeping up to date with technology brings life into the classroom and for both himself and his learners. When asked what the progress from his perspective was, he replied, "I also want to go paperless, I want my learners to be part of the change and I want them not to be limited by resources."

Free State Department of Education Official, Mr Tyran Ferndale nominated Mr Mobe as a shining star due to his perseverance in making time to plan, prepare and implement what he learns on a daily basis. "He is always keen to teach and learn from his colleagues."

Mr Mobe says that when he first went for training he had the bare minimum skills which included typing in a word processor and saving documents. Today, he is always excited for the next lesson because he has learnt how to use PowerPoint as a great tool for presenting lessons in his classroom. He uses Google to do searches for relevant images or videos with sound and embeds these into his presentations. He says, "This creates such a lively, learning environment for the learners and most of all keeps me on my toes as I cannot go to class unprepared."

Mr Mobe's typical day end with him using his personal laptop at home to create lesson plans and learner, and he says that time and practice has made him a better user. He comments that, just like

any other skill, the more you practice the better you become. He recalls that after their very first session of teacher training with SchoolNet SA, the school set up refresher lessons to provide the practice needed to master skills that were taught. Mr Mobe now extends his own skills by continually thinking of new ways to use technology in his classroom.

Motivation for other educators:

“Technology is everywhere, smartphones, banks and computers –if we not going to use it we are denying our learners great opportunities.”

“Being unprepared is no longer an option, come to class well prepared because learners see it and appreciate it.”

“Learners relate better to images and sound and technology does this very well.”

Mr Mobe is looking forward to participating in the next training session where he will have opportunities to share some of his lessons with other teachers. The humble Mr Mobe further iterates that there are other teacher colleagues who will develop great lessons if they try - he would like each teacher to share a lesson so that collectively they can work on making more meaningful lessons for their learners.

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