

Highlight #2

The ever-changing world of technology provides new software and hardware on a daily basis. Many programs and devices can be integrated into the curriculum with confidence and practice. Organizations such as OSAPAC provide educators with websites to outline useful tools for greater learning.



Highlight #1

The 'flipped' classroom concept provides the best solution for differentiated teaching and the growing demands of the 21st Century Classroom.

Interactive devices and software programs enrich the process providing assistive technology and familiar tools that can engage all students in meaningful learning practices.

A 'flipped' classroom encourages students to be more accountable for their learning as the teacher acts a coach . This process presents great challenges as it requires planning and an open mind-set from all teachers.

Yet... differentiated instruction paired with 'flipped' classroom concepts will drive students from their present understanding and guide them as far as they are willing to go.

Summary

The speed of technology and the face of education are constantly changing. Teachers can maximize technology if they embrace its true potential through continuous training.

With academic achievement as a goal, students can use the internet for writing, presenting, collaborating, and inventing. The opportunities are limitless.

When teachers learn to focus on task in place of technology, they will bear witness to engaged learners who can respond to open-ended questions. This practice motivates students to learn independently.

Learning should never be teacher focused... It should be individualized. The virtual world provides endless opportunities...

Watch me use it to guide my learners!



Integration of Information & Communication Technology in Instruction

Reviewing Trends and Integrated practices

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Highlight #5

Creativity and strong communication skills improve the integration of technology when access to resources are limited. When teachers become students, they open their minds to new ways of teaching and learning. Virtual classrooms provide a learning space for teachers to ask questions and share new ideas.



Challenges

When teachers become students, an open and enthusiastic mind can face challenges if passion and common interests are not shared amongst staff members. Many educators are still reluctant to use technology in the classroom.

Highlight # 4

The demands of the 21st Century come with a price. Budget allowances are something we cannot ignore yet many students are comfortably equipped with personal devices of their own. BYOD programs offer a clear solution to the lack of technology in the classroom. Districts should draft policies to encourage such practices.



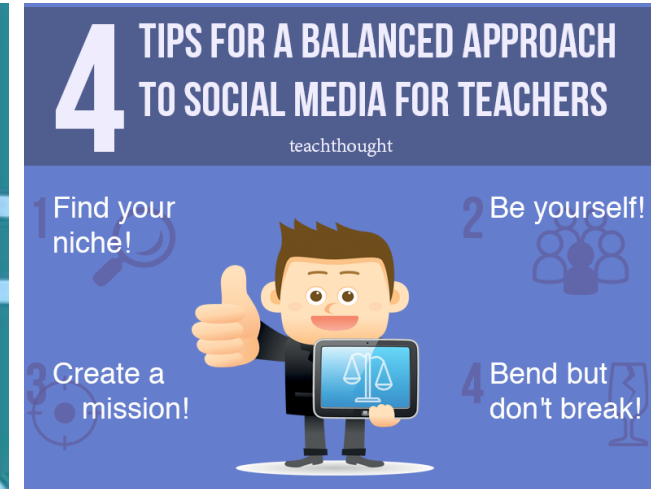
Challenges

We live in a high speed society. Many teachers are not willing to flip their classrooms and welcome change. Teacher training and mentorship programs need to be the focus. Money saved on devices and textbooks could be reserved for ongoing professional development.

Professional development will also support teachers who have great confidence with technology and modern practices as time management, personal health can be neglected if the long-term implications of timely planning sessions are ignored.

Highlight #3

Social Media has become a super-power in the 21st Century. Providing many positives for professional enhancement, social media can extend and enhance education as well. If educators establish clear boundaries and guidelines for everyday practices, student engagement will continue to improve.



Challenges

Social Media was not created for educational purpose. Professionals and students are vulnerable in virtual worlds that can manipulate meaning and turn a relatively harmless thoughts into viral disasters.

Teachers and students need to adopt strong sensible practice to ensure professional conduct and credibility. Establishing boundaries in everyday practices from face-to-face conversations to tech-based communication will uphold the integrity of teachers and students alike.