- DIGITAL LEARNING -
RECIPEs FOR SUCCESS
REMOTE LEARNING

Take learning beyond the traditional classroom to prevent learning loss should schools have to close.

Ingredients

A FLEXIBLE DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT • 1 LOGIN FOR EASY ACCESS TO LEARNING MATERIALS • 1 DEDICATED TEACHER • 1 TECHNOLOGY DEVICE FOR EACH STUDENT, ACCESSIBLE OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM • 1 AUTOMATICALLY UPDATED DASHBOARD FOR STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION

Directions

1. Gain support from all stakeholders: Before mapping out your strategy for remote learning, make sure that stakeholders in your school or university are informed of your intentions and be sure to get their feedback. This includes your staff, as well as students and parents. If possible, start by sending a survey to everyone involved. Use this as a chance to introduce them to the idea of remote learning and open the discussion for ideas and concerns.

2. Identify challenges: One common obstacle that schools face when considering online learning days is ensuring digital equity. Some students might not have laptops or internet access at home, or could experience power outages. Include a make-up clause in your policy. If you assign tasks or homework on your eLearning days, give students with no access extra days to make-up the work once school is back in session or extend hand-in deadlines.

3. Develop your remote learning lesson plan: Treat remote learning days like a regular school day. There should be a start and stop time, teachers should post their digital “office hours,” and the day should be structured. Include an eLearning day schedule in your school’s policy, with specific course times, study breaks, and even recess. Use tools such as ‘polls and surveys’, ‘learning path’ and many more to personalize learning whether in a classroom or when learning from home.

4. Perform a dry run: Once you have a plan in place, perform a dry run with all the stakeholders to ensure that the plan working as it should. This is the time to tweak and fix any gaps in your eLearning program.

5. Ensure accountability: Working from home is a great experience for students. Self-management is an essential life skill, but it can be difficult for some students facing the varied distractions of home, like a younger sibling who doesn’t have eLearning days or the constant lure of social media channels. Keep students focused during eLearning days by assigning real-time tasks and requiring visible online activity, like group discussion or video conferencing.

6. Connect with students: Most students thrive when learning at home, while some others struggle. Try to connect daily or weekly on an individual basis with your students to check in on them. A little personal motivation from a teacher can go a long way.
BLENDED LEARNING

Face-to-face and online learning swirl together in this recipe for a delightful treat that maximizes productivity and student outcome.

Ingredients

1 PHYSICAL CLASSROOM • 1 FLEXIBLE DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT • 1 DEDICATED TEACHER
1 TECHNOLOGY DEVICE FOR EACH STUDENT, ENOUGH FOR GROUP ROTATION, OR DEVICES ACCESSIBLE OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

Directions

1. Consider your goals. Do you want to increase communication between students, parents, and teachers? Facilitate student collaboration? Encourage critical thinking? By defining your goals, you’re more likely to achieve success in your blended learning classroom.

2. Think about the hardware and software you currently have available to you and what tools you need. Does each student have a device, or will you need to rotate groups between instructor-led and online activities? Will you need a learning management system (LMS) that will save you time in preparing lessons, grading and communicating with stakeholders?

3. Think about how integrating technology into your lesson can help you better reach your goals. For example, you can save time by sharing feedback with online grading, or even recording audio or video comments to accommodate a variety of learners.

4. Give students voice and choice to make learning more meaningful to them. Encourage them to choose how to demonstrate what they’ve learned by allowing them to turn in a text assignment, a drawing, and audio recording, or a video.

Boost productivity with some of these ideas:

- Rather than making paper copies, stapling and distributing to students, post assignments and handouts online for easy access by students.
- Instead of spending hours curating and creating curriculum, use pre-vetted and standards-aligned Open Education Resources.
- When grading online, give feedback using text, audio or video. Or have students assess peers through online discussions for more meaningful interactions.
- Ask students to review online materials for homework, then use class time for collaboration and personalized teaching time.

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VISIT OUR TEACHER LOUNGE
FLIPPED CLASSROOM

Turn your classroom into a crowd-pleasing 21st century learning environment with this take on the flipped classroom.

Ingredients

1 PHYSICAL CLASSROOM • 1 EASILY-ACCESSIBLE AND USER-FRIENDLY DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT • 1 DEDICATED TEACHER
1 TECHNOLOGY DEVICE ACCESSIBLE TO EACH STUDENT OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

Directions

1. Make your materials easy to find. Having classroom tools, curricula, and materials available for students whenever they need it can improve motivation and learning. Consider an LMS that lets you embed videos and other media into courses, making it easy for students to know where to access your flipped classroom materials.

2. Ask students to do more than just watch. Encourage students to actively participate in their learning by letting them reflect on what they’ve seen outside of class so they are better able to work together in the classroom to apply what they’ve learned.

3. Don’t start from scratch! Save time by using Open Education Resources. Remix content and courses that have already been curated, developed and implemented by educators across the country

4. Include an online poll with your flipped classroom materials. With student input, you’ll get a clear direction of their understanding and next steps needed in teaching difficult concepts. Polls can also allow students to voice their opinions, paving the way for deeper discussions during class time.

5. Make videos or other flipped materials part of an assignment. If you share a video or an image, such as a work of art or a page of an assignment, you can have students submit reflections or start a discussion.
STUDENT SELF-ASSESSMENT

The secret to this recipe is a healthy dose of self-reflection sprinkled with irresistible autonomy.

Ingredients

1 DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT STUFFED WITH TOOLS FOR MEANINGFUL REFLECTION • 1 TEACHER BUBBLING WITH ENCOURAGEMENT • A CLASSROOM OF STUDENTS PREPARED TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF THEIR LEARNING

Directions

1. Work with students to set goals for themselves and a rubric for their achievements. It’s key to include them in this first step to begin fostering a sense of ownership over their learning objectives. Make sure they have easy, 24-hr access to their documented goals and rubrics for reference.

2. Start off with a simple project on one topic area. Give the students voice and choice in the type of resources they use to research the topic, whether it be educational games, articles, or videos.

3. Foster a cooperative and collaborative approach from the get-go. Have students start a discussion group with other students who might have more competency on the subject. Encourage them to ask questions, share ideas and resources.

4. Encourage students to self-reflect. Have them submit a blog post to help them take stock of what they learn each week. At the end of the term, ask them to compare their blogs and their comprehension of the topic overtime so they can see how much they’ve learned.

5. Make the final assessment of their work a collaborative effort. Work together with students to compare their goals and progress to determine their overall achievements. Survey each student asking them questions about what they learned about self-assessment and how they can improve their efforts next time.
PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Have it your way! Students will be motivated and engaged with an a la carte learning plan made just for them.

Ingredients

1 DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT WITH RICH MULTI-MEDIA CAPABILITIES • 1 CLASSROOM OF DIVERSE LEARNERS
1 DEDICATED TEACHER • 3 HEAPING TABLESPOONS OF STUDENT CHOICE

Directions

1. Put students at the center by letting them choose how they learn and how they demonstrate what they've learned. Rather than requiring all students to submit written assignments, give them the option to submit a video, drawing, song or other evidence of acumen.

2. Use a big question or exit slips to gauge student understanding either before or after a lesson to ensure you address specific learning needs. Online surveys and polls are ideal for delivering and tracking these activities.

3. Identify students who are struggling to meet learning objectives and assign them activities for reinforcement. Consider an LMS equipped with a recommendation engine that can automate most of this process, with the teacher approving all recommended activities.

4. Create Individualized Learning Plans (ILP’s) to help students define their goals, track personal growth, and improve learning outcomes. Plans can include skills, goals, task tracking, reflections, and mentor feedback and encourage self-exploration and self-management.

5. Encourage students to create rather than just consume by empowering them to develop portions of a lesson, surveys, or even a test. Let them use e-portfolios and blogs to reflect, take ownership and foster a lifelong love of creative learning.

6. Introduce students to productivity tools, like a digital dashboard that displays student tasks, assignments and due dates to keep them on track. Personalize their tools to further encourage self-managed learning.

7. Encourage peer-to-peer assessment. Students can use discussion boards to evaluate each other’s work based on a set of pre-defined criteria. This practice can help students gain a broader understanding of concepts and fosters a supportive learning environment.

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STANDARDS MASTERY

A classic favorite that’s easier than ever when paired with next generation tools for automation and content curation.

Ingredients

1 DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT CHOCK-FULL OF COLLABORATION TOOLS • A GENEROUS HELPING OF MEANINGFUL STUDENT FEEDBACK 2 CUPS OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES PROGRESS REPORTS • 1 AUTOMATED CONTENT RECOMMENDATION ENGINE

Directions

1. Align instruction and assessments to district, state, and federal standards. An LMS pre-built with a library of content tagged by standards will help you align lessons and assessments so you can efficiently and effectively track student performance.

2. Clearly communicate assessment criteria to your students. Students need to know what is expected of them to be successful. Link assessment criteria and standards to individual assignments so that students can readily access, understand and work toward them.

3. Provide specific, constructive, actionable feedback to help students progress. Help students focus their learning by giving written, audio or video feedback on specific rubric criteria, in addition to overall comments.

4. Monitor classroom performance towards mastery of standards. Use reporting tools that allow you to see the percentage of students who have mastered each course standard, as well as individual progress against standards.

5. Use reporting to determine individual student progress against each standard. A student might have scored well overall, but hasn’t mastered a standard that’s critical for future learning.

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Layering self-improvement and technological mastery makes for a memorable side-dish that teachers will rave about.

Ingredients

1 DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THAT SERVES AS A COMMUNICATION HUB • 1 BOLD TEACHER EAGER TO LEARN A BUSHEL OF SUPPORT EXPERTS FOCUSED ON IMPROVING STUDENT TEACHER OUTCOMES

Directions

1. **Determine your goals** for your professional development initiatives on technology use. Identify your district requirements, knowledge gaps, and what subjects you want to focus on.

2. **Survey students for their input.** Get a sense of expectations and which areas of your improvement will help foster their own learning achievements.

3. **Do your research before investing in tech** to be sure you’re partnering with providers who offer in-person training and 24-7 online support. Work with your tech support team to develop a personalized instructional program designed to fit your specific needs.

4. Don’t try to learn too much at once. Overloading yourself with too much information will ensure quick burnout. Pace yourself by starting with simple functionality and working your way up to more advanced features.

5. Establish a [professional development hub] that provides a variety of tools for collaboration, like discussion boards and conference capability, and that also lets you easily store and share digital resources for sharing or for your own reference.
STUDENT REMEDIATION

Robust assessment and personalized instruction are paired for a wholesome recipe that brings all students to the table.

Ingredients

1 DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT INFUSED WITH INSIGHTFUL REPORTING TOOLS  •  1 CUP OF STUDENT-CENTERED LESSON PLANS
A CLASSROOM OF STUDENTS WITH VARYING COMPETENCIES AND INTERESTS  •  2 CUPS OF STUDENT EMPOWERMENT

Directions

1. **Assess our students' knowledge gaps** – review their past performance with advanced reporting tools to determine each of the strengths, weaknesses and interests.

2. Find out what your students want to learn more about. Consider sending them a **poll to determine their interests** and where they think they need the most improvement.

3. Develop an **individualized learning plan (ILP)** for each student. This process can be made easier with an automated content recommendation engine and a vast digital content library that provides data-based, standards-aligned suggestions for which resources will best resonate with each student.

4. Give students **choice in the type of content they engage with** (educational games, articles, videos, audio) and how they demonstrate what they’ve learned by providing them with a variety of tools for communication (blogs, discussion boards, instant messaging, surveys, etc.).

5. Help students help each other by facilitating ongoing group discussion, inside and outside of the classroom. Encourage them to **start a discussion board** centered around recent lessons.

6. For your independent learners, ensure students always have access to classroom materials even after school hours. Encourage personal effort by providing students with **easy-access to their learning objectives** so they can self-assess and help themselves get ahead.

7. Evaluate student progress on learning objectives to **determine if your personalized lesson plans are improving outcomes**. To ensure the best learning experience for you and your students, consider adopting classroom tech that provides individualize data and adapts to every learning style to ensure the best possible outcome for each student.

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STUDENT REMEDIATION

Robust assessment and personalized instruction are paired for a wholesome recipe that brings all students to the table.

Ingredients

A ONE-STOP-SHOP DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT * • 1 LOGIN FOR EASY ACCESS TO LESSONS, CONTENT AND GRADEBOOKS • A VARIETY OF SHAREABLE, STANDARDS-ALIGNED LESSONS AND RESOURCES • 1 AUTOMATICALLY UPDATED DASHBOARD FOR STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION

Directions

1. Save time by accessing lessons, digital content, and gradebooks with a single login – anytime, anywhere, on any device.

2. Use a dashboard to make it easy for teachers, parents and students to view upcoming tasks and assignments for all courses, announcements, and student progress reports.

3. Use the course planner to more easily pull lessons, resources, objectives, assignments and assessments together, as well as automatically communicate out assignment details and deadlines.

4. Develop template courses that can be shared with other teachers to save valuable time in lesson planning, encourage best practices, and exchange ideas for maximizing lesson development and teaching time.

5. Easily find and share educator vetted resources using your digital library. Resources may be mapped to standards, searchable by standard or keyword, and shared with others in the school, district or wider education community.

6. Incorporate blended learning and flipped classroom techniques that allow students to review course materials outside of the classroom so you can add more hours to your teaching day.

7. Streamline assessment delivery and grading with tests that can be cloned, modified and marked automatically; surveys and polls for quick opinions, show what you know and exit tickets; and ePortfolios that showcase student work over time.

8. Use rubrics to communicate learning objectives to students, and provide specific feedback tied to individual assessment criteria. If necessary, students can then use this feedback and resubmit their work.

9. Keep all stakeholders in the know regarding standards mastery by encouraging teachers, students, administrators, and parents to review student progress reports syndicated to their dashboards.

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