Blended Learning Recipe

Blended learning is the practice of combining face-to-face learning and online learning for the purpose of maximizing student outcomes.

**Ingredients**

- 1 physical classroom
- 1 online 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 amongst students, parents, and teachers? Facilitate student collaboration? Encourage critical thinking? Allow students to create, rather than consume? Develop more engaging learning experiences? By defining your goals, you’re more likely to achieve success in your blended learning classroom.

2. **Take stock of your resources:** Think about the hardware and software you currently have available to you. Does each student have a device, or will you need to rotate groups between instructor-led and online activities? Do you have access to online apps or a next generation learning management system (LMS) like itslearning that will help save you time in preparing lessons, grading and communicating with parents and students?
3. **Create your learning experiences:** Think about how integrating technology into your lesson can help you better reach your goals. For example, to more efficiently develop, track and assess reflective journal assignments, have students record thoughts into an online journal in *itslearning*, rather than on paper. Save time with online grading by entering feedback into *itslearning*, or even recording audio or video comments to accommodate a variety of learners.

4. **Make it personal:** Giving students choices will help make learning more meaningful to them. Encourage them to choose how to show what they know by allowing them to turn in a text assignment, a drawing or video. Allow students to choose whether or not they can complete an online assignment in class, or at home on their own devices.

5. **Think teacher productivity:** In addition to more engaged and creative students, personalized instruction, and better informed parents, blended learning can help boost teacher productivity. Try some of these ideas and see for yourself!

   - Rather than making paper copies, stapling and distributing to students, post assignments and handouts to the *itslearning* platform for easy access by students.
   - 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 more student collaboration and personalized teaching time.

More blended learning tips at [www.itslearning.net/blended-learning](http://www.itslearning.net/blended-learning)
Flipped Classroom Recipe

In a flipped classroom, students explore concepts and review instructional materials at home so they are better prepared to engage in collaborative and hands-on work during class time.

Ingredients

• 1 physical classroom  
• 1 online learning environment  
• 1 dedicated teacher  
• 1 technology device accessible to each student outside of the classroom

Directions

1. **Make your materials easy to find.** Use itslearning K-12 learning management system (LMS) to 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 immediately 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. **Save time by using pre-made content** from your learning community, or external education sites. itslearning makes it easy to embed these materials into your assignments.
4. Create your own instructional videos from within itslearning. If you have the time and desire to create your own videos, use itslearning to begin recording at the click of a button.

5. 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 a particular concept. Polls can also allow students to voice their opinions, paving the way for deeper discussions during class time.

6. Make videos or other flipped materials part of an assignment. If you embed a video or an image, such as a work of art, on a page of an itslearning assignment, you can ask students to submit reflections or even questions about the materials that everyone can then discuss in class the next day. In addition, by accessing a report on who has submitted their reflections, you can track that a student has actually viewed the materials you assigned for homework.

7. Embed video or other media into a discussion board. Ask students to reflect on the material and collaborate with their peers for homework. Use the next day’s class period to extend the discussion and clarify concepts.

8. Include videos or images in assessments and surveys. Ask students to view and then answer questions about an image or video for homework. Review results before the next class to help determine where students should focus their learning.

More flipped classroom tips at www.itslearning.net/flipped-classroom
Personalized Learning Recipe

Personalized learning increases motivation and engagement by encouraging students to take charge of and design learning experiences that are meaningful to them.

Ingredients
- 1 award-winning digital learning environment
- 1 classroom of diverse learners
- 1 dedicated teacher
- 3 heaping tablespoons of student choice

Directions
1. **Give students a voice and choice** regarding what they want to learn, and how to show what they know. Rather than requiring all students to submit written assignments, give them the option to submit a video, drawing, song or other evidence of learning.

2. **Give specific, positive, actionable feedback** to students using their preferred method of communication. With itslearning, you can easily provide video, audio or text comments.

3. **Use beginning big questions or exit slips** to gauge student understanding either before or after a lesson to ensure you address specific learning needs. Surveys and polls in itslearning are ideal ways to deliver and track these activities.
4. **Identify students who are struggling** to meet learning objectives and assign them activities for reinforcement. The itslearning recommendation engine can automate most of this process, with the teacher approving all recommended activities.

5. **Create Individualized Learning Plans (ILP’s)** for tracking personal growth. Plans can include skills, goals, task tracking, reflections and mentor feedback. itslearning communicates progress to students, teachers, parents and mentors via their dashboard.

6. **Allow students to use the e-portfolios and blogs** built into itslearning to reflect, take ownership and foster a lifelong love of learning.

7. **Encourage students to create rather than just consume** by empowering them to develop portions of a lesson, surveys, or even a test using itslearning.

8. **Introduce students to productivity tools** such as the personal dashboard in itslearning. Blocks that display student tasks, assignments and due dates can keep them on track. Options to personalize their dashboard’s look and feel can further encourage students to manage their own learning.

9. **Encourage peer-to-peer assessment** using discussion boards, or pre-flight checklists where one student evaluates another’s project using a set of defined criteria.

10. **Personalize assignments** using groups and permissions in itslearning so that advanced students are challenged and struggling students get extra practice.

More personalized learning tips at [www.itslearning.net/personalized-learning-1](http://www.itslearning.net/personalized-learning-1)
Standards Mastery Recipe

Track mastery of district, state and Common Core Standards with itslearning’s award-winning personalized learning platform, featuring our automated content recommendation engine.

Ingredients

- 1 award-winning digital learning environment
- A generous helping of meaningful student feedback
- 3 handfuls of learning objectives progress reports
- 1 automated content recommendation engine

Directions

1. Align instruction and assessments to district, state, and Common Core standards. Use itslearning to easily align lessons and assessments, such as rubrics, to standards so that you can more effectively track student performance.

2. Clearly communicate assessment criteria to your students. Students need to know what is expected of them in order to be successful. With itslearning, you can 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. You and your students (for peer assessment) can use itslearning to provide written, audio or video feedback. Help students focus their learning by giving written feedback on specific rubric criteria, in addition to overall comments.

4. Monitor student performance towards mastery of standards. itslearning’s Learning Objectives Progress Report allows 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 student progress against individual standards. A student might have scored well overall, but not have mastered a standard that could be critical for future learning. These are areas in which you can identify opportunities for remediation and recommendation.

6. Share progress with students, parents and administrators automatically via the itslearning dashboard. A dedicated parent portal allows parents to choose individual students among siblings in order to track progress.

7. Personalize instruction based on student performance via itslearning’s automated recommendation engine. Finding the time to choose and personalize activities for corrective instruction (or enrichment) is challenging. At the click of a button, itslearning automatically recommends personalized activities for each student, while still allowing teachers to choose which activities are most appropriate.

More standards mastery tips at www.itslearning.net/standards-mastery
Recipe for Success

Teacher Productivity Recipe

itslearning’s award-winning personalized learning platform can help make you a more productive teacher, and add more teaching time to the school day.

Ingredients

• 1 award-winning 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 itslearning** lessons, digital content, and gradebooks with a single login – anytime, anywhere, on any device.

2. **Dashboards 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** in itslearning 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. **Share resources** such as pages, files and links using the learning object repository in **itslearning**. 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 **itslearning** 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 in **itslearning**.

More teacher productivity tips at www.itslearning.net