



Bridging the Gaps between Teacher and Student Using Technology

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Abstract:

Creating a meaningful connection between teachers, students, and technology through professional development has never been more crucial than right now with the current climate of the education environment. It is important that teachers are aware of how to stay connected with students and that they are equipped with the necessary technology to keep students connected with school content, regardless of where learning is taking place. A great option for educators to learn how to more effectively bridge the gap between teachers, students, and technology is through participating in professional development sessions. Professional development allows teachers to complete different training sessions to learn how to adapt their classrooms to whatever environment is implemented.

Technology can give all teachers the fortuity to connect with their students with unique and exciting modules or tools, used in technology in classrooms, as technology has evolved so rapidly. Curriculum activities can be taught and be very engaging with students digitally and on these modules and systems along with good internet connectivity, can make learning fun and interactive for learners, and teachers alike! As times have changed drastically over the past few years, teachers and faculty have had to

develop and learn systems and online technology methods in order to maintain a balance between new technologies and the school curriculum that needs to be taught.

Keywords: *Modern technologies, computer assisted technology, online apps,*

How Teachers Are Using Education Technology In The Classrooms

Our favourite one so far has to be digital field trips, and virtual scavenger hunt games, sounds exciting right?! Since there are many ways to embrace and use education to bridge the gap between teachers and students, we will cover a few of our favourites and the most common ways teachers embrace technology in their classrooms.

Print Technologies

These include:

- the **primary source of instruction material** mailed to the students for reference as in correspondence courses
- **e-mails**, which can be used to ask questions or send assignments back to the teacher
- text materials may take the form of **worksheets or study guides** that are used in conjunction with video or voice technologies

Print technologies are extremely portable, Cost effective and readily available and have High comfort level. However they lack interactions, have No audio/visual elements, require reading skills and suffer from time delay.

Audio Technologies

Audio or voice technologies offer cost-effective ways to enhance distance learning courses. These Are:

- **Voicemail** which allows students to leave messages for instructors regardless of the time ,Allows instructors to leave messages for individuals or groups , Can be used to administer quizzes (this option requires some programming) and Serves as an alternative to e-mail for those students who do not have a computer .

- **Audio Files and CDs** can be used to deliver lectures, panel discussions, or instructions for the distant learner. Audio is especially useful in courses that require the nuances of inflection, such as foreign languages, or those that are designed for non-readers.
- Audioconferences are relatively easy to set up and conduct; however, it may be difficult to maintain students' interest for long periods of time without visual elements. Therefore, audio conferences used for distance learning should be short, well-planned, and supplemented with visual materials that are distributed in advance.
- Podcasting is a method for making digital audio and video files available on the internet in such a way that others can set their computers to automatically download new episodes in a series as they are posted online. One of the most popular programs for subscribing to podcasts is Apple's iTunes

Computers Assisted Technology

With the increased popularity of the Internet, computer technologies are receiving more and more attention as a means of delivering distance learning. The primary computer technologies used for distance education include e-mail, online collaborations, and Web-based education.

- **E-mail:** In addition to "regular" e-mail messages, bulletin boards and list serves can also be used to conduct distance learning initiatives. Bulletin boards (also called discussion groups or newsgroups) are electronic forums where students can "post" messages or read messages that others have posted. A threaded discussion group is a bulletin board that allows students to reply to specific messages (the reply is then indented or in some way linked to the original message). List serves are automated e-mail distribution systems. In other words, if you send an e-mail message to a list serve, it will automatically be distributed to all other members of the list serve. Many faculty members establish bulletin boards or list serves for distance learning classes to facilitate the interactions among the students.
- **Online Collaboration: Internet Chat and Conferencing:** Online chat, Shared whiteboards (If two or more people are connected to the Internet at the same time, they can communicate through graphic images on a shared whiteboard).
- **Web Quests:** Web Quest is an inquiry-oriented activity that provides an excellent example of how the various resources on the Internet can be effectively integrated for a classroom project.

- **Web-based Resources:** The World Wide Web has opened a whole new arena for distance learning courses and the access to remote resources. The Web can be used to enhance education through remote access to resources or experts or it can be used to deliver educational programs

Video Technologies

The ability to see and hear an instructor offers opportunities for behavior modeling, demonstrations, and instruction of abstract concepts.

- **Videotape and DVD:** Almost all students have access to a videotape or DVD player in the homes, and they are also common at school. Videotapes and DVDs have several advantages for the delivery of distance learning. In addition to easy access to the hardware, the tapes and discs are quite inexpensive
- **Satellite Videoconferencing:** Full-motion video teleconferencing (referred to as videoconferencing) offers the "next best thing to being there." Satellite transmission is one of the oldest, most established techniques for videoconferencing. In most cases, satellite delivery offers one-way video and two-way audio.
- **Microwave Television Conferencing:** Microwave transmissions provide a cost-effective method for videoconferencing in more localized areas. Most microwave systems are designed to transmit video signals to areas that are not more than 20 miles apart.
- **Cable and Broadcast Television:** Cable and public broadcast television have been used to distribute instruction for years. In addition to the educational networks, almost all public cable television systems allow schools to transmit television courses. This type of connection can be used to transmit one-way video and one-way audio to the community at large or between specific schools. For example, if two area high schools do not each have enough students to justify an advanced math course, they might team up to teach a single course delivered through cable television. In one school, the teacher would conduct a regular class; in the other school, the students would watch and listen through a standard cable television channel.
- **Desktop Videoconferencing**
- **Internet Videoconferencing:** Internet videoconferencing usually results in a small image, which may be jerky (a few frames per second), depending on the speed of the Internet connection. In most cases, a regular modem is far too slow to transmit effective video.

Power Point Presentation

Teaching certain topics and assignments on PowerPoint presentations.

Digital Gaming/Games

Digital gaming helps to keep students engaged and having fun. Digital gaming can be a good to establish teamwork, time management and much more!

Internet Homework Tasks and Assignments

Researching on Google and other internet pages to complete homework assignments is a great way to give students a chance to explore technology in their own time, and thus explore their answers and options to the questions for the assignment. Each student will have its own understanding to the stage of technology based on other environmental and social reasons, so this will enable students to show you where their learning level is at.

Online Grading Systems

Online grading systems dramatically assist with parent and teacher communication with alignment with student management and parents who are too busy for schools, report replies, etc, others who struggle to understand technology is a communication medium which has now streamlined this to ensure all teachers and students' parents are involved and aware of all aspects of the school and less miscommunication takes place.

The obvious and most beneficial use of online grading systems is saving teachers time, now not having to go through pages and pages of students' exams and assignments to be marked, all or most completed online takes the manual struggle out of the process and this is one tool or source all teachers need more of, that's time!

Google Calendar

Keep parents, students, and staff up-to-date about activities by integrating Google Calendar with the Ed-admin interface. Integration is available for the Student, Parent, and Staff Edana apps and portals.

Features and Benefits:

- Keep parents updated about their children's classes, extracurricular activities, parent-teacher conferences, etc.
- Sync event updates simultaneously across Google-enabled devices
- Share events live through the Parent Portal and Edana Parent Portal app.

Potential Future Developments

Children with communication difficulties will reap the benefits of education technology as it bridges their fear of asking and facing that fear in another way. Online teaching will increase as many students who cannot meet teachers face to face have a massive opportunity to learn and grow, thus inviting more online teaching jobs to be on the rise over the next decade.

Seamless and efficient information at your fingertips, without hours of research and paperwork management, learning will be developed at a much higher level and teachers who do not engage in educational technology will not be able to reap the benefits of all the good these modules and tools can bring!

Virtual Professional Development Resources

With a global pandemic, most professional development opportunities are now being offered online, so we wanted to supply you with some of our favorite online professional development resources.

1. Online training sessions and conferences: Prior to the COVID-19, most professional development training sessions were done in-person. In order to still facilitate professional development opportunities during this pandemic, many sessions have now been adapted to a virtual setting. We saw an opportunity to offer even more help to educators during this time. Therefore, we created our 2020 Technology Coaching Conference to virtually support educator's professional learning efforts.

2. YouTube: Professional development training does not have to take multiple hours out of your day. There are a variety of educational videos that are provided on YouTube that range in different time frames to best fit your time needs. We created our YouTube page to offer a variety of videos. For quick and effective videos, try

watching our Tech Coach Corner series. For a longer and more in-depth learning opportunity, we also post our event and podcast episodes on our YouTube page.

It is important to dedicate time out of your busy schedule to work on improving your practice as an educator. Professional development sessions and training are a great way to learn how to better yourself and bridge the gap between teachers, students, and technology.

Conclusion

Teachers are always finding ways to relate to students, this is a very important interpersonal relationship that must be developed. Even though most of the teachers were taught without technology, most students are making use of technology in their day-to-day lives, so to be taught an old way, sometimes is a disconnect, developing strategies to keep students engaged and educated, education technology is a brilliant way to enhance this skill.

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