SELF-STUDY COURSE
CATALOG

2023-24

Online Professional Development for Teachers

Relevant. Job-embedded. Real-time.

Online Professional Development Courses

Scenarios | Printable Teaching Resources | Quiz | Certificate of Completion

ASSESSMENT
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Curriculum Development
Evaluating Student Work
Formative Assessment
Rubrics in Teaching and Learning
Student Portfolios
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Classroom Management for PBIS
Enhancing Instruction
Inquiry-based Learning
Project-based Learning
Research-based Instruction
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Thrifty Classroom
Transformative Classroom Mgmt

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Cognitive Skills
Understanding Learning Challenges
Differentiation for Gifted Learners
English Language Learners
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Visuals in Learning

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Online Professional Development Courses from ConnectedPD®

Standards

These courses align to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

These courses also align to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content and Teachers Facilitate Learning.

Each self-study PD course from ConnectedPD includes:

- **Convenient access** anytime, anywhere, any device
- Interactive **online** textbook
- Implement **practical suggestions** immediately
- Demonstrate comprehension with **quizzes** and checks for understanding
- Print **certificates** of completion
- Easily assign courses to align with each teacher's **personalized PD needs**
- **Integrate** with school and district-wide initiatives
- **Low cost solution for all courses, all teachers, all school year**
- **Reports** for school administrators

Please review course information sheets on the following pages for the current offering of online professional development courses from ConnectedPD®.

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ONLINE: Accommodating All Learners

"This was an excellent session on accommodating the various learning styles."

- Don G.

Reach and teach all learners by examining 21st century student and educator strengths in this research-based course packed with strategies, resources and tools. Participants will gain insight into both, their own learning and teaching preferences as well as the learning styles of students. Closely aligned with national standards and pedagogical goals.

- Every Learner Learning
- Who's Who: Teaching & Learning
- Who RR Students?
- Teaching Across Type
- Technology
- Theories & Strategies

The Accommodating All Learners course addresses accommodation, modification, and adaptation of curriculum, materials, and instruction to appropriately meet the needs of varied students in achieving graduation standards (i.e., differentiated instruction).

ONLINE: Accommodating All Learners

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Every Learner Learning

- Teaching and Learning
- What we Know, Paradigm Shift
- Accommodating all Learners, Change
- About the Brain, The Brain and Learning
- Introduction to Learning Styles
- Teacher as Learner
- The Paragon Learning Style Inventory (PLSI) and how it can be used to enhance learning
- Administering the PLSI
- Contexts in which the PLSI can be used in the classroom.

LESSON 2: Who Are Our Students? Teaching Across Types

- Characteristics of today's youth
- Aspects of physical and cognitive access to the general curriculum
- Academic learning styles and students' skill development as it aligns with age
- Observing interactions to identify earning styles and preferences
- The concept of perception and differences in perception
- The importance of finding solutions that are win-win for both teacher and student
- How to build a win-win pedagogy based on the 5 principles
- Strategies to employ when the teacher's learning style conflicts with students' styles
- Learning about thinking styles

LESSON 3: Technology

- Media as a flexible tool to reach all learners
- Recent research on technology and traditional models of delivery
- Traditional media versus digital media
- Digital media and how it can be used to customize materials and methods
- Technology Timeline

LESSON 4: Theories and Strategies

- Components of multiple intelligences
- Activities to develop each type of intelligence
- Bloom's taxonomy, differentiated instruction, and informal learning.
- Hemisphericity and activities that can stimulate both left and right sides of the brain
- The 4-quadrant model

ONLINE: Accommodations through UDL

"I have learned so many applicable teaching approaches."

– Joan A.

Teaching each and every student effectively is never easy. It is next to impossible to find a classroom full of students with the same needs, learning levels and abilities. Teachers are faced with the challenge of teaching a diverse group the same lesson and ensuring that they all learn in the process.

This course is designed to present teachers with the Universal Design of Learning (UDL) framework, which makes teaching ALL students a very real possibility. The framework builds on research findings that show how a single teaching approach has very limited results on student learning, highlighting the need for a new curricular approach. Here a learner's level of recognition, strategic, and affective networks are all taken into account to determine the best way to teach them.

The course is centered around exploring practical strategies that can be used to add a much needed element of flexibility in teaching presentation, student expression and meaningful engagement and upholding learning as the primary focus.

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Basics of Universal Design of Learning

- Understanding the meaning and need for a universal design of learning (UDL) to meet both teacher and student needs.
- Designing comprehensive curriculum and effective assessments according to the UDL framework.
- Exploring the basic principles of UDL and their implementation in the planning process and in the classroom.
- Using UDL to meet the varied needs of students by differentiated instruction.

LESSON 2: Flexible Methods of Presentation

- Understanding possible barriers to optimal student learning and strategies to overcome them.
- Audio-visual and textual strategies of providing multiple options for perception.
- Using variety in language, mathematical expressions and symbols in the effective representation of information.
- Essential strategies in ensuring successful comprehension, maximum transfer and generalization of learning.

LESSON 3: Flexible Methods of Expression

- Exploring effective strategies to successfully engage and challenge students with varying levels of skill and areas of interest.
- Ensuring that the expected physical engagement with the learning environment does not pose barriers for differently-abled students.
- Offering alternatives for students to express themselves and integrating multiple modes of expression into each lesson.
- Using the UDL framework to scaffold the skills needed to demonstrate students' executive functioning.

LESSON 4: Flexible Options for Engagement

- Examining the third principle of the UDL - providing multiple opportunities so all students are engaged in the classroom.
- Strategies to create a positive classroom environment, captivate students' interest while giving them choice and autonomy.
- Ensuring that the primary goal is enhanced student learning but eliminating distractions and irrelevant activities.
- Promoting students' self-regulation by teaching them personal coping skills, self-assessment and reflection techniques.

ONLINE: Action Research for School Improvement

"I feel like I can make a school-wide difference."

– Ashley D.

Research often conjures up a picture in people's minds of academics working in isolation for years proving theories. To make a distinction from academic research, those involved in action research participate in ongoing testing and monitoring of improvements in their practice. This course provides a framework for teachers to use action research as a means to change or improve their practice.

Another important aspect that the course introduces is intellectual collaboration among teachers. This means working together to identify issues in their teaching context and developing processes for improvement. Action research facilitates the necessary context to help build a strong professional learning community and can be used either as a school improvement tool or as an individual professional development option.

ONLINE: Action Research for School Improvement

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introducing Action Research

- Understanding action research by reviewing key definitions and its history.
- What are the key features of action research?
- Identifying the benefits of action research in the context of education.
- Exploring the teacher's role in action research.
- Considering the various types of action research.

LESSON 2: Focus Area

- How to select the right area of focus for the action research project.
- Looking at possible focus areas in education.

LESSON 3: Key Pre-planning Questions

- Questions to ask yourself before getting started.
- Developing the research agenda.
- Identifying the project team that will work with you on the project.
- Defining the various types of data that are available and data collection techniques.
- Explaining how to use a Structured Action Research Model.
- Identifying the right sample for your research.
- How to analyze data, draw conclusions, and sharing findings.

LESSON 4: Data Collection Phases

- How to use an Action Research Matrix as a guide to identify the student learning goal.
- The process of collecting data – keeping a checklist in mind.
- How to organize & display data in a way that's easy to retrieve and analyze.
- Analyzing and interpreting data.
- Using the help of professional literature in your research project.
- Arriving at short and long-term plans.
- A reminder on the ethics of practicing action research.

"I love using apps in the classroom. This class gave me some great ideas."

- Melissa M.

Integrate Ruben Puentedura's SAMR model with Alan November's work on Transformative Learning to find the best apps to educate YOUR students. The integration of apps into education, may seem like a natural product of the times. However, successfully impacting students' learning, requires a whole new level of teachers' engagement and effort.

Teachers will be equipped to go beyond using an app merely because someone else has recommended it and fully examine the true learning potential.

To this end, teachers must take into account specifics, including logistics, ability to manage, content access, sound and image quality, all while evaluating individual apps.

A comprehensive App Evaluation Framework, specially designed for the classroom context is presented for teachers' critical consideration of educational apps before deciding to introduce them to students. With an integrated approach, teachers can successfully consider an apps' connections with curriculum content and ability to amplify existing learning levels, while evaluating systematically their transformative learning capability.

ONLINE: Apps for Education

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Considerations, Content and Components

- Choose apps that encourage students to engage in a greater degree of independent thought.
- The key skills in Bloom's Taxonomy and how they can be applied while considering an app for educational use.
- Using November's Digital Learning Farm to empower students with targeted apps.
- The use of apps to teach the various "multiple intelligences" in Garner's learning theory.
- Specific skills and literacies essential for effective teaching and learning in the 21st century and choosing apps that promote their development.
- Essential content and components to look for in apps, before integrating them into teaching.

LESSON 2: Logistics and Fluency

- Common logistics concerns with using apps, and how to address and anticipate them.
- The importance of achieving fluency in app usage to ensure better learning potential.
- Essential phases in app fluency to measure against an app's performance.

LESSON 3: Learning with Apps

- Transitioning from using apps to "substitute" traditional teaching, to a more transformational approach.
- Ways to enhance students' learning through Puentedura's SAMR models.
- The integration of November's three phases to ensure rigorous app evaluation.
- The use of concrete evidence of students' learning as the ultimate decider on the future use of an app.

LESSON 4: Sample Evaluation and Recommendations

- Evaluation of an app against all the considerations discussed in the course to find one with optimal teaching potential.
- Recommended apps, across iOS, Android and Windows platforms, for the following classroom purposes: Storytelling, Photography, Visualization and Mind Mapping, Note Taking, Book Creators, Screen Casting, Word Clouds, Photo Collages, Drawing, Video, Audio Recording

ONLINE: Assessment Strategies

"These strategies have helped me design my assessments to align with common core standards."

– Alma P.

Assessments are not confined to year end tests and grades. They are meant to be a part of daily teaching and learning. Good assessments are powerful – they may be used to change the way teachers teach, students learn and sometimes even what is to be taught.

Assessment Strategies is an online course that will help teachers design an assessment process that will provide a reliable and valid evaluation of their students. Strategies for assessing Reading and Math skills are explored in detail.

Assessments may be seen as an opportunity for teacher professional development. From updating teaching strategies to modifying curriculum to tailoring instruction, assessments may be used to enable both teachers and students to stay on course to achieve their goals.

ONLINE: Assessment Strategies

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Classroom Assessment Strategies:

- Exploring Standards with a brief introduction.
- Elaborating on different kinds of assessments including summative and formative assessments.
- Connecting learning to the real world beyond classrooms

LESSON 2: The Assessment Process:

- Defining and providing information on various assessment related terms including evaluation and validity; and concepts such as sound assessment design and effective communication.
- Explaining the assessment process including writing objectives and analyzing data.

LESSON 3: Assessment and Evaluation Strategies:

- Detailing assessment strategies regarding Reading: including before and after reading strategies and related concepts.
- Analyzing in-depth the strategies relating to Mathematics: including higher order thinking, reflective prompts and self-questioning.

LESSON 4: Assessment Challenges and Professional Development

- Exploring the challenges of assessments as opportunities for professional development.
- Reiterating the integral part of assessments in education and providing information on available resources.

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ONLINE: Assistive Communication for Every Classroom

"I never knew how much of a difference communication tools can make for students with disabilities."

— Yuri O.

Students with disabilities face many communication challenges. Combined with possible physical and cognitive disabilities, learning can be compromised. As teachers, it is important to help students with disabilities overcome difficulties to attain and maximize potential in the classroom. This course helps teachers achieve this goal.

Teachers are introduced to available Assistive Communication techniques and tools. Primarily, this course aims to prepare teachers with an understanding of these tools and how to incorporate them into a classroom to best build on the needs and abilities of the student. Teachers also learn how to stimulate and facilitate learning by incorporating high-tech and low-tech assistive devices. The tools, strategies and templates provided in this course help teachers create an inclusive classroom and positive learning environment for students with disabilities.

ONLINE: Assistive Communication for Every Classroom

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction to Assistive Communication

- Defining Assistive Communication, exploring its benefits and process of functioning.
- Identifying the laws advocating for and supporting use of Assistive Technology in the classroom.
- Understanding Assistive Communication, its purpose and the three types of Assistive Communication devices used in the classroom.
- Identifying the four categories of Assistive Communication Technologies used in the classroom.

LESSON 2: Low-Tech Strategies for Communication

- Exploring the six phases of the Picture Exchange Communication System method and its application.
- Understanding American Sign Language and its use in the classroom.
- Practical application of the Picture Exchange Communication board and Topic rings/wallets in the classroom.
- Identifying the four main types of Communication cards effective in the classroom.

LESSON 3: High-Tech Strategies for Communication

- Exploring the different high-tech strategies and their uses for improving communication and learning in the classroom.
- Computer modifications and adaptations enabling students with disabilities to achieve academic excellence.
- Practical application of the devices with regard to Physical, Visual, Communication and Learning disabilities.
- Identifying the smart phone applications that can enable communication.

LESSON 4: Implementing Assistive and Alternative Communication in Classrooms

- Understanding the role of the teacher and the Assistive Communication team with regard to Assistive and Alternative communication.
- Exploring the process of implementation and classroom observations of Assistive and Alternative Communication in the classrooms.
- Defining the Multi-modal approach to communication and the three Levels of communication.
- Exploring the strategies aiding and facilitating communication, group work, assessment and homework.

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ONLINE: Building School-wide Initiatives

"This course had some great strategies for impacting the greater community."

- Jennifer M.

All schools want their students to succeed, but they can only make a lasting difference when they focus on specific goals and strategies for change. School improvement planning is a process through which schools set goals for improvement and make decisions about how and when these goals will be achieved. The ultimate objective of the process is to improve student achievement levels by enhancing the way curriculum is delivered, creating a positive environment for learning, and increasing the degree to which parents are involved in their children's learning at school and in the home.

To address these needs, this online PD course focuses on using school-wide Initiatives to enhance student achievement across the curriculum. Such initiatives target academics, behavior, and any other area that might be lacking. Teachers are equipped to plan and implement such initiatives in an organized, focused, and inclusive way. The resources and strategies here empower them to raise levels of achievement by identifying the gaps, defining focus, creating effective strategies, building an environment that encourages reform, working in tandem with parents and students, and monitoring the desired change.

ONLINE: Building School-wide Initiatives

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Overview to Building School-wide Initiatives

- Meaning and characteristics of School-wide Initiatives
- Benefits of initiating school-wide programs
- Understanding role of teachers
- What can we learn from examples of School-wide Initiatives

LESSON 2: Planning an Effective Initiative

- The key to an effective plan
- Creating a comprehensive plan and getting started
- How to make relevant contribution as teachers
- Engaging colleagues, parents and students in the initiative

LESSON 3: Implementation of the Initiative

- The process of assessing needs of the school
- Forming strategies and action plan
- Setting eyes on defined goals and timelines
- Monitoring the plan

LESSON 4: Review and Resources

- The need for a thorough review
- Grouping collected information
- Activities that help in evaluation process
- Resources for reference

ONLINE: Bulletin Board – Ideas for Every Classroom

"The ideas and examples were very helpful I am excited about trying these new ideas in my classroom this year!"

– Teresa Z.

A classroom can seem incomplete without attractive and educative bulletin boards. Have you ever looked at another teacher's bulletin boards and wondered how they managed to make it so interesting? Maybe you don't have a lot of experience with art, or maybe you're running low on creative ideas.

This course provides a new and fresh direction that helps teachers understand the basic principles of art and design and how to apply these in planning and creating bulletin boards. Included are a number of ideas for interesting, interactive and educative bulletin boards.

Through this course, teachers come up with some very creative and visually effective ideas for their classrooms and often are inspired to create their own classroom bulletin board makeovers.

ONLINE: Bulletin Board – Ideas for Every Classroom

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction to Bulletin Boards

- Exploring the purpose, application and skills enhanced by bulletin boards.
- Identifying essential characteristics of good bulletin boards.
- Considering the three main types of bulletin boards: teacher created, teacher-student created and student created to understand their applications, features and advantages.

LESSON 2: Designing Bulletin Boards

- The effective use of art elements in the design of classroom bulletin boards.
- Using principles of design to organize elements of a bulletin board for a specific purpose.
- Applying the basics of graphic organization to present the content of a bulletin board.

LESSON 3: Creating a Bulletin Board

- Planning for the physical aspects and logistics of the board as well as its purpose.
- Understanding the process of constructing the background, lettering and adornments for the board.
- Ensuring student participation through clear expectations, creating success, promoting teamwork and organization.

LESSON 4: Bulletin Board Ideas

- Exploring the applications and features of seasonal boards in celebrating events and reinforcing learning.
- Creating boards for classroom management and social skill development to emphasize rules and expectations.
- Examining how conceptual boards can be used to effectively teach and reinforce subjects like Math, English, Science and History.

ONLINE: Bullying - Prevention and Policies for Schools

"Interesting course with great suggestions."

– Michelle H.

Bullying is a form of aggressive behavior and can be either covert or overt in nature. Bullying incidents vary in their severity and impact. Most mild bullying behavior can be managed by the students themselves. More severe incidents may require intervention from teachers and other school staff. Therefore, schools have a valuable role in supporting students to develop effective ways to relate to others.

The aim of this online course is to enable teachers to build a school culture where bullying has no place, by modeling and fostering healthy social interactions among students. This course helps teachers to develop their understanding of bullying and gives them confidence to respond to and address it.

The practical strategies in this course can be adapted by teachers to meet the specific needs of their individual classrooms. Teachers are empowered to prevent and respond to bullying effectively as part of promoting positive environments in which all students can learn and thrive.

Course Outline

LESSON 1: What is Bullying?

- Defining and understanding bullying behavior.
- Differentiating between bullying myths and facts.
- Learning about the different types of bullying.
- Understanding the characteristics of bullying and the effect it has on the people involved.
- Recognizing warning signs of victimization and identifying bullying incidents.

LESSON 2: Cyberbullying

- Understanding the difference between cyberbullying and traditional bullying.
- Understanding the types of cyberbullying and learning how to recognize the signs.
- Understanding how to prevent and respond to cases of cyberbullying.
- School level measures to prevent cyberbullying.

LESSON 3: Reporting and Response

- Four phases or levels of reporting a bullying incident.
- Understanding anonymous and online reporting of bullying incidents.
- Documentation of bullying incidents.
- Understanding the different bullying intervention methods.
- Challenges faced by school administrators while dealing with bullying incidents.

LESSON 4: Bullying awareness and prevention

- Understanding the key elements, aspects, and challenges of school-wide bullying prevention.
- Understanding bullying prevention at the classroom and individual level.
- Exploring different bullying awareness activities for elementary, middle, and high school students.
- Involving parents in the anti-bullying initiatives of the school.

"I enjoyed the course and found valuable strategies, methods and concepts to use in my classroom."
- Monty B.

Child Abuse and trafficking are serious issues threatening and harming the safety and well being of our children.

As teachers, our responsibility is not limited to academic performance, but to the overall development and welfare of our students. It is vital that we fight against child abuse and trafficking. This course will help you with information and skills to do so.

You will be introduced to fundamental facts, indicators and risk factors related to child abuse and trafficking. This course primarily focuses on a teacher's role as a mandatory reporter. Understanding this information is crucial to identification for victims including procedures for helping ensure the safety of students.

ONLINE: Child Abuse Prevention

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Understanding Child Abuse

- Defining child abuse and neglect
- Exploring the different types of child abuse and neglect and identifying the signs and behaviors characterizing each type
- Understanding the legal statutes for child abandonment and leaving children alone at home
- Defining Trafficking
- Exploring the signs, types and risk factors for trafficking

LESSON 2: Perpetrators of Child Abuse

- Exploring the characteristics of child abuse perpetrators
- Identifying the causes and risk factors leading to child abuse and neglect and the role of technology in child maltreatment
- Understanding how and where child abuse can occur and learning about the process of grooming

LESSON 3: Reporting Child Abuse

- Understanding mandated reporting and the role of educators as mandated reporters
- Learning how to report cases of child abuse and neglect, its procedures and formalities
- Exploring the procedures of Child Protection Services and how to assist them with their investigation

LESSON 4: Prevention of Child Abuse

- Exploring the role of educators in preventing child abuse and neglect
- Identifying child abuse preventive strategies that educators can engage in at the classroom, school and community level
- Identifying strategies by which the cycle of abuse can be prevented or broken

ONLINE: Classroom Collaboration

"I liked that there were lots of practical, usable ideas and not just theory.

I found myself opening my planbook to add in ideas I found in these lessons!"

- Justin B.

Implement collaborative learning in classrooms and develop successful learners. This framework enables teachers to recognize characteristics of collaborative classrooms, be aware of student and teacher roles, and practice group activities as an essential part of the classroom. Teachers are introduced to school-wide policy reforms in place today that promote collaboration and group activities.

Teachers are also provided with ideas and strategies to accommodate learners, including students with special needs. The practical examples, real-life experiences, and templates in this online course provide teachers a structure to use in their own classrooms.

ONLINE: Classroom Collaboration

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction to Collaborative Learning

- What is Collaborative Learning?
- Why should students collaborate?
- Collaboration vs. Traditional Approach
- Benefits and Importance of collaborative learning
- Overview on Effective Collaboration in the Classroom
- Alignment of collaboration to State Standards
- The Collaborative Learning Model

LESSON 2: Collaborative Tools and Strategies

- Characteristics of a collaborative teacher
- Grouping Strategies
- Designing grouping assignments
- Collaborative Learning Techniques
- Web Tools for Collaboration
- Examples of Collaborative Projects
- Interactions in a Collaborative Classroom
- Activities that students can collaborate on
- Around the world collaboration
- Resources for collaboration

LESSON 3: The Collaborative Classroom

- Characteristics of a Collaborative Classroom
- Student and Teacher Roles in a Collaborative Classroom
- Preparing for Collaborative Activities
- Examples of Classroom Collaboration
- Collaborative Learning Spaces
- Managing today's classroom

LESSON 4: Assessment, Accommodations, and Challenges

- Collaborative Assessment
- Approaches to Collaborative Assessment
- Challenges in a collaborative classroom
- Conflict Resolution
- School-wide policies to promote collaboration

ONLINE: Classroom Management for Positive Behaviors

"I enjoyed this class! It really gave me additional insight into behavioral management."

– Alan J.

Students from all backgrounds, temperaments, and abilities should have access to a classroom ambience that is conducive to their learning. Positive Behavior Management helps educators transform challenging behavior, systemically and individually, to create such an environment.

Learn evidence-based Positive Behavior Intervention Solutions (PBIS) practices to identify and eliminate triggers in the classroom, encourage positive behaviors, and give students individualized care and support.

This proactive PBIS approach, with three tiers of interventions, can strengthen students' relationships, improve their communication skill, and circumvent conflict.

ONLINE: Classroom Management for Positive Behaviors

Course Outline

LESSON 1: A Positive Classroom Climate

- What is PBIS and Why teach Positive Behaviors?
- Behavior Management and Social Skills
- Instructional and Environmental Management
- Parent Support and Three-Tier Framework

LESSON 2: Primary Prevention

- What is Primary Prevention?
- Guidelines
- Behavior Management Strategies
- Basic Teaching Approach

LESSON 3: Secondary Prevention

- Eligibility
- Features
- Identifying Students
- Secondary Interventions

LESSON 4: Tertiary Prevention

- Selection of Students
- Implementation Strategies
- Parental Involvement

ONLINE: Classroom Organization for the 21ˢᵗ Century

"I thought this course on organization was beneficial; particularly in the section that explained technology tools that may assist with organization and time management."

– Laura D.

Good teaching is both an art and a science. It requires a significant amount of planning, research, preparation, evaluation, and a whole lot of creativity. However, that doesn't mean teachers need to sacrifice their personal and family life for education. The key to "doing it all" and "doing it all *well*" is organization. A rested, relaxed, and organized teacher is an effective teacher.

The aim of this course, The Organized Teacher, is to aid teachers as they strive to make their lives and classrooms more organized and a lot less stressful. There are tips, tools, templates, and creative ideas to help teachers organize the classroom environment, classroom activities, assessments, and other class events. The ideas in this course will present effective ways for teachers to be organized and to take practical steps to manage stressful days and avoid time crunches. This will have a positive impact on both themselves and their students.

ONLINE: Classroom Organization for the 21st Century

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Being an Organized Teacher

- Understanding the purpose and benefits of being organized for the teacher and for students
- Examining the reality of stress and burnout among teachers
- The traits an organized teacher possesses
- Specific actions that make a teacher organized, and classroom examples for each

LESSON 2: Organizing Your Classroom

- The overarching goals of organizing the classroom space and activities
- Effective design of classroom space, choosing the best layout and organizing the physical environment as well.
- Managing Classroom material like submissions and resources efficiently
- Organizing Classroom activities including independent, group and whole class work
- Strategies to manage and track student behavior positively, during lessons and through transitions

LESSON 3: Ten Tech Tools for Organized Teaching

- Essential considerations behind using technology to organize your classroom and teaching
- Ten useful tools/apps to organize teaching responsibilities, and the classroom applications of each

LESSON 4: Classroom Applications

- Planning for Continuous Assessments in the Classroom and methods to carry them out effectively
- Working within a teaching team, partnering and preparing to be a substitute
- Organizing parent partnerships at both one-way and two-way levels
- Getting Classroom projects and events efficiently planned and carried out
- Ensuring windup is productive, for teachers and students, at a daily and annual level

ONLINE: Cognitive Skills – Understanding Learning Challenges

"I enjoyed this course because it gave me resources that I can use in the classroom to improve student abilities."

– Denise D.

The U.S. Department of Education, and others indicate that **weak cognitive skills are the source of over 80% of learning problems.**

In this course you'll come to understand the answer: students approach each task with varying learning tools. These tools are called cognitive skills, and these skills determine the quality, speed, and ease with which individuals learn and perform.

This course provides methods for detecting students with weak cognitive skills and tools to strengthen those skills. Teachers will receive understanding, as well as ways to apply development techniques in the classroom. The online class is fun and interactive and includes information about new brain research and how it can impact today's classrooms.

ONLINE: Cognitive Skills – Understanding Learning Challenges

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- The potential and possibility of unlocking your students' complete learning potential.
- Understanding the reality and prevalence of learning challenges and the need for effective special education.
- The crucial role of teachers and schools in maximizing educational impact and student learning.
- Increasing the importance of cognitive skills for living successfully in the current society.

LESSON 2: Testing

- The importance of how tests are administered and interpreted in understanding a student's individual learning needs and challenges.
- Understanding the two main types of tests and their different goals.
- Examining the role of IQ scores and phonemic awareness in accurately evaluating learning difficulties.
- Common contemporary approaches to diagnosed learning issues and the significance of cognitive skills in making a lasting impact on students' learning.

LESSON 3: Cognitive Skills

- Understanding the nature of student learning and the role cognitive skills play in it.
- Identifying and accurately assessing cognitive weaknesses as signs of deeper learning issues.
- Exploring the features and significance of specific cognitive skills.
- Examining the inter-connected nature of skills and specific abilities closely associated with cognitive growth.

LESSON 4: The Brain

- Exploring contemporary research insights into the functioning of the brain.
- Examining the role and nature of attention and memory in the learning process.
- Understanding dyslexia and effective approaches to it.
- The significance of parental involvement and the need for practice.

LESSON 5: Effective Training

- Identifying the role of the brain in laying essential foundations for learning.
- Exploring specific methods to build and strengthen cognitive skills.
- Emphasizing the need for effective cognitive training to be non-academic in nature.

ONLINE: Cultural Competency and Responsive Teaching

"Major points well presented and very interesting to go through."

- Fleta C.

Teachers deepen their understanding of their own frames of reference, potential bias, and impact on expectations for and relationships with students, students' families and school communities.

This course demonstrates responsive teaching in the classroom by helping teachers consider, connect with, and build competence in meeting the many learning needs of all students while addressing culturally diverse classrooms that are sensitive and equitable to learners across languages, genders, religions, cultural backgrounds, and special needs.

Designed to meet state requirements for cultural competency and responsiveness training including but not limited to all of the following topics: racial, cultural, and socioeconomic groups; American Indian and Alaskan native students; religion; systemic racism; gender identity, including transgender students; sexual orientation; language diversity; and individuals with disabilities and mental health concerns while deepening teachers' understanding of their own frames of reference, the potential bias in these frames, and their impact on expectations for and relationships with students, students' families, and the school communities.

ONLINE: Cultural Competency and Responsive Teaching

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Cultural Competency

- Defining Culture and Cultural Competency
- Cultural Beliefs and Values
- Impact of Culture on Behavior

LESSON 2: Bias

- Definition, types and identification of bias
- Assumptions, Perspectives, Self-Perceptions

LESSON 3: Culturally Responsive Classrooms

- Impact of culture on teaching and learning
- Brain roles in learning
- Teaching styles and student impact
- Building rapport with students

LESSON 4: Culturally Responsive Teaching
- Diversity in the classroom
- Understanding diversity: origin, religion, gender, language, special needs and mental health
- Cohesive Classrooms and School Communities
- Collaborating with Families

ONLINE: Curriculum Development

"This was a very informative course and I can very easily use the skills I learned in my classroom."

- Lauren H.

Educators can make a difference in strengthening the curriculum. The resources, examples and templates included in this online course, guide teachers to plan, develop, integrate and evaluate curriculum more effectively. This information can empower teachers so that they feel more confident to implement interactivities. Effective curriculum is a foundation for students to be successful learners.

ONLINE: Curriculum Development

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Curriculum Development
- Curriculum vs. Syllabus
- Effective Curriculum
- Curriculum Development
- The Curriculum Development Process
- Curriculum Planning

LESSON 2: Developing a Standard-based Curriculum

- Standard-Based Curriculum
- Yearlong Curriculum
- Elements of a Long-term scope and sequence of curriculum
- Types of Curriculum Maps
- Backwards Planning
- Creating a Unit Plan
- Components of the Unit Plan
- Effective Lesson Planning
- Preparing a Lesson Plan

LESSON 3: Curriculum Integration

- Curriculum and levels of Integration
- Approaches of Integration
- Interdisciplinary Curriculum
- Benchmark descriptors of interdisciplinary curriculum
- Models of Curriculum Integration
- Implications of Implementing an integrated curriculum

LESSON 4: Curriculum Evaluation

- What is Curriculum Evaluation?
- Need for Evaluation
- Types of Curriculum Evaluation
- Models of Curriculum Evaluation
- Criteria for Evaluation
- Phases of Curriculum Evaluation
- Tools for Evaluation

ONLINE: Differentiation for Gifted Learners in the Classroom

"This was an excellent session on accommodating the various learning styles."

– Don G.

This course examines some of the challenges facing gifted learners and offers easily implemented accommodations and success strategies. By understanding the unique learning needs of children who are considered "gifted," participants will indirectly meet the individual needs of all learners.

Through this course educators and parents can make greater sense of gifted and talented education by learning about identification, instruction and assessment of these students while exploring related topics, issues and resources geared towards our gifted population.

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Characteristics

- Who gifted learners are.
- Types of gifted learners including academic, linguistic, and artistic learners.
- Qualities of gifted learners.

LESSON 2: Personal, Social and Cognitive Needs

- Needs of gifted learners, especially personal, social and intellectual needs.
- Differentiation and how it can be implemented including aspects process and assessment.
- Independent learning and curriculum compacting and how these can be used for gifted learners.

LESSON 3: Special Populations

- Twice exceptional students and how these students require additional support.
- Indicators of twice exceptionality and strategies that can be used to teach this special population.

LESSON 4: Practical Strategies

- Several practical strategies that can be used while working with gifted learners and special populations.
- Pre-assessment in teaching gifted learners.
- Strategies such as H.O.T.S, Morning Minute, Learning contracts and tiered instruction.

ONLINE: Early Reading Skills

The development of early literary and reading skills are foundation for every student's education. Gain a comprehensive understanding of challenges that hold potential readers back, including phonological impairments and reading disorders. Adopt best science-research-based reading strategies to tackle these including use of explicit, systematic and sequential approaches to reading instruction, developing phonemic awareness, and implementing multisensory intervention strategies.

An incredibly useful tool for teachers looking to unlock their students' reading potential, the course is a must-have for teachers.

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Language Development

- Stages of Reading Development
- The role of Neuroscience in Language Development
- Reading Wars and Speech-Language Impairments
- Reading Disorders and Assessment for Reading Disorders

LESSON 2: Reading Disorders

- Growth Mindset Approach and "Think-Aloud" Strategy
- Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)
- Gradual Release of Responsibility
- Fostering Early Literacy at Home and Play & Literacy

LESSON 3: Supporting Early Literacy Skills

- Purposeful Conversations and Vocabulary
- Academic Vocabulary and Narratives
- Phonological, Words and Syllable Awareness
- Rhyming, Onset, Rime and Phonemic Awareness

LESSON 4: Phonics

- Letter-Sound Relations and Keyword for each Letter
- Word Building and Decoding Words
- Letter Tiles and Elkonin Boxes
- Sound-spelling Patterns and Encoding (Spelling)

ONLINE: English Language Learners in the Classroom

*"I feel better prepared
to serve English Language Learners."*

– Peggy P.

Facilitate optimal learning in the classroom by helping English Language Learners feel validated. This online PD course includes a range of strategies and activities that lead to interactions which benefit the four language skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

The Sheltered Instruction (SI) model is presented along with ways to apply this model when teaching English Language Learners. The importance of working collaboratively and ensuring the involvement of parents to enhance learning is emphasized with corresponding strategies. Through a range of research-based findings, teachers are equipped to engage students in "higher order thinking skills" and design a sufficiently challenging curriculum.

ONLINE: English Language Learners in the Classroom

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Welcoming English Language Learners

- Create an environment of acceptance.
- Understand the backgrounds of English Language Learners.
- Establishing an open channel of communication with parents.

LESSON 2: Accommodating a New Culture

- Identify the educational needs of English Language Learners.
- Avoiding assumptions.
- Conversational and cross-cultural skills.
- Comparing cultures and value systems.

LESSON 3: Collaboration and Connection

- Approaches for mainstream teachers to effectively serve English Language Learners.
- The Sheltered Instruction (SI) model.
- Four language skill areas.

LESSON 4: Curriculum and Lessons

- Engaging students in "higher order thinking skills" (HOTS).
- Methods of simplification and expansion.

ONLINE: Enhancing Instruction through Standards

"I appreciate all the resources included with this course."

– Sharae F.

Explore practical ways to integrate the Standards into your classroom instruction to enhance student learning experiences. This course provides an insight into the roles of teachers and students in the implementation of standards by integration of proven strategies like collaborative learning, differentiated instruction and technology.

This course provides teachers with a wealth of resources, ideas and techniques to test the will and the skills of every school leader and teacher, with every student receiving every student receiving consistent, high-quality instruction in every classroom, school-wide every single day. Teachers are provided with instructional strategies to handle the different forms of negative behavior that surface in the classroom.

ONLINE: Enhancing Instruction through Standards

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Understanding Standards

- Introduction to Standards
- Integration of Differentiated Instruction, in response to student readiness
- Incorporation of the four models of Blending Learning: Rotation model, Flex model, A la Carte model and Enriched Virtual model

LESSON 2: School-wide Instructional Changes

- Requirements of the Standards for students leaving High School
- Analysis of the literacy components such as Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening and Language
- Making mathematics practical with the Collaboration of Standards of mathematics
- School wide steps to implement Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts
- Using extended school days, an extended school year, after-school tutoring and multi-tiered interventions to meet the rigors of standards.

LESSON 3: Classroom Instructional Strategies

- Classroom instructional strategies that help teachers meet the standards, based on Dr. Robert Marzano's Art and Science of Teaching Framework
- Examining techniques to help students interact successfully with new knowledge
- Approaches to hypothesis generation and testing
- Application of classroom understanding to real world problems
- Ways to establish and maintain effective relationships with students

LESSON 4: Standards-based Behavior Management

- Role of teachers as behavior managers, to reinforce class-wide behavioral standards
- Understanding On-task and Off-task behaviors
- Application of Response to Intervention (RTI) model for student behavior management
- Classroom Management Plan that summarizes the important routines, procedures and consequences
- Ideas and techniques to make learning an ongoing, dynamic and enjoyable process

ONLINE: Ethical Conduct in Education

Ethics may seem like an abstract concept, and yet it's practical, relevant and a critical part of a teacher's professional life. Explore how you can grow in ethics in the areas of academic excellence, boundaries and academic integrity. From protocols for social media, reporting abuse, transference and plagiarism, this course explores issues where ethics and education meet. It is full of practical strategies, resources and guidelines for teachers to reflect on and implement in their particular teaching situations.

Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Each online PD course includes:

- **Convenient access** anytime, anywhere, any device
- Interactive **online** textbook
- Implement **practical suggestions** immediately
- Demonstrate comprehension with **quizzes** and checks for understanding
- Print **certificates** of completion
- Easily assign courses to align with each teacher's **personalized PD needs**
- **Integrate** with school and district-wide initiatives
- **Low cost solution for all courses, all teachers, all school year**
- **Reports** for school administrators

ONLINE: Ethical Conduct in Education

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Ethical Understanding

- Why Ethics?
- Growing in Ethics
- Ethical Culture
- Ethical Conduct

LESSON 2: Academic Excellence

- Commitment to Student Learning
- Quality Education
- Professional Growth
- Research Practices

LESSON 3: Behaviors and Boundaries

- Safe Learning Environments and Technology Safety
- Professional, Relationship and Physical Boundaries
- Dignity and Respect
- Confidentiality and Trust

LESSON 4: Academic Integrity

- The Hero Code
- Integrity and Education
- Establish Expectations and Use Formative Assessment
- Create an Honor Code and Grade Objectively

ONLINE: Ethical Decision Making

Making ethical decisions in the classroom can be challenging and strenuous. It is not always easy to determine what is right or wrong, especially since ethics and morality are based on more than what is socially acceptable or personally preferred. This Ethical Decision Making course includes a consistent framework for educators to use for determining the best ethical decision. By following the process for making ethical decisions, teachers have guidance and structure even when a matter seems conflicting.

Ethics are standards of right and wrong that establish trust between teachers, students, colleagues and families. Ethical conduct supports a positive classroom environment where all students feel valued, motivated, engaged, and respected.

An incredibly useful tool, this Ethical Decision Making course for educators is a must-have tool for teachers everywhere.

ONLINE: Ethical Decision Making

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Defining Ethics
- Ethical Decision Making
- Morality
- Behavior Contracts
- Laws and Justice

LESSON 2: Ethical Lens

- Ethical Lenses and their Application
- Justice Lens
- Right Lens
- Utilitarian Lens
- Common Good Lens
- Virtue Lens
- Care Lens

LESSON 3: Ethical Decision Making

- Framework for Ethical Decision Making
- Steps for Decision Making
- Case Studies and Ethical Discussions: When Someone is Cheating, Professional Conflict of Interest, A Conflict of Belief Systems, Plagiarized Work, Side Hustle and Time Management

LESSON 4: Moral Courage

- The Milgram and Sherman Experiments
- Building Moral Courage
- Student Safety
- Case Studies and Ethical Discussions: Teacher-Student Relationships, Unsupervised Spaces and Reporting Abuse, Registered Sex Offenders, Reporting Suicidal Intent
- Workplace Harassment and Ethical Discussions

ONLINE: Ethics for Education Professionals

"I was pleasantly surprised at the respectful and compassionate tone that the course took towards teachers who are tempted to commit boundary violations."

– Christopher L.

It's easy for boundaries to become blurred. In the past it was rare for a student to call a teacher at home. Today, students and teachers are faced with numerous ways to contact one another 24/7. Things that previously may have been black and white are now gray. **Where do we draw the lines?**

Even though most people believe that their actions are guided by logic and reason, we all have an innate ethical sense that urges us to make predictable choices. We each find words to create rationales to support our choices or decisions. **Ethics education is about recognizing our own innate ethical sense and how it influences our behavior.**

We build our ethical sense on beliefs that we have brought with us. This is why ethics centers on an individual's personal choices. By stepping inside this course and through reflection and introspection, you'll discover a clearer understanding of the innate ethical self. You'll find tools and tips for bringing high standards of ethics into our schools and a variety of topics to explore practical ways of addressing ethical decisions.

ONLINE: Ethics for Education Professionals

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Ethics in School

- Examining morals, ethics and laws while understanding subtle differences between these.
- Insight on schools of thought and ethical models.
- Professionalism and how it applies to teachers.
- Reviewing basic ethical practices.

LESSON 2: Ethical Boundaries

- Types of boundaries and establishing boundaries through communication, both verbal and non-verbal.
- Transference
- Insight on challenging ethical issues including excessive thinking, jealously and inappropriate relationships, as well as how these may be avoided.

LESSON 3: Ethical Behaviors

- Professional habits, including the infusion of modesty, fidelity and civility.
- Understanding appropriate behavior in areas including touch and conversation.
- Practical strategies that can be used to maintain positive professional relationships with students, colleagues and parents.
- Virtues and the traits that are the cornerstone for every professional teacher.

LESSON 4: Ethics in Practice

- A framework for making ethical decisions in the context of the classroom and school.
- Strategies to promote school-wide ethical practice including mentoring, PD, ethical committee, ethical code of conduct and honor code.

ONLINE: Examining and Evaluating Student Work

""This course helped me design and carry out fair evaluations."

- Anna V.

21st century students must have more than just textbook knowledge. Evaluating student learning goes beyond merely grading papers. Both schools and teachers need to intentionally move toward assessing students' understanding, and then use this insight to enhance teaching and learning practices.

The wealth of resources and classroom examples provided here enable teachers to enhance existing evaluation practices. Calling for a shift in approach, the course lays out effective and dynamic methods by which teachers can assess student work. These help ensure that educational focus remains entirely on both teacher and student development.
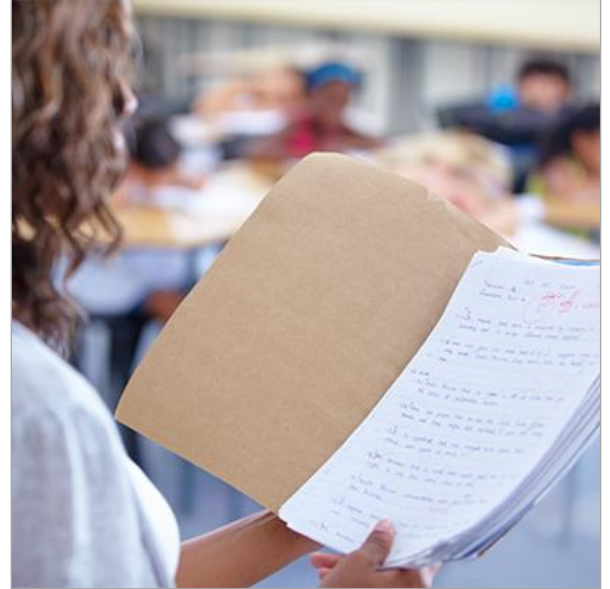
The course recommends expanding these best practices by "Examining Student Work" through a process of intentional reflection with other teachers. Through encouragement to engage with other teachers and learn from shared insights, teachers are equipped with useful resources to successfully implement this process.

![ConnectedPD from https://ProfessionalLearningBoard.com]

ONLINE: Examining and Evaluating Student Work

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Evaluating Student Work

- Meaning of assessment and why it is needed for growth
- Considering criticism of assessment methods
- What constitutes a well-designed assessment?
- Tools of holistic assessment

LESSON 2: Effective Grading Process

- The key to consistent assessment
- Learning to grade group work
- Practical tips for handling complaints
- Creating rubrics to assist the grading process

LESSON 3: Examining Student Work

- Introduction to examining student work and research that supports it
- Drawing teachers into an inquiry-based learning experience
- Examining student work to change practice
- Turning apprehensions into learning opportunities

LESSON 4: Planning, Process and Takeaways

- Planning and carrying out ESW meetings
- Choosing appropriate student work samples
- Facilitating collaborative work
- Using protocols for smooth functioning

ONLINE: Flipping Classrooms

"I have a better understanding of how and why the flipped classroom should be used."
– Cynthia A**.**

"Flipping" the classroom liberates classroom instruction from traditional patterns. The goal is to move students beyond becoming 'proficient' in a subject to 'mastering' its intricacies. Explore making students' learning needs the driving force behind classroom instruction. Identify effective tools and strategies, such as video, digital simulations, and computer games to personalize lessons.

This approach empowers student ownership over their learning and promotes the classroom as a collaborative educational environment.

ONLINE: Flipping Classrooms

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Understanding the flipped classroom

- Flipped classroom: Definition and Why "Flip?"
- Key elements and Benefits to flipping a classroom
- Traditional classroom vs. Flipped classroom
- Types of Flipped classrooms
- Research and Concerns regarding flipped classrooms

LESSON 2: Creating a Flipped Classroom

- How to flip the classroom
- Creating a flipped lesson plan
- Effective lesson planning
- Integration within a flipped classroom

LESSON 3: Tools for the Flipped Classroom

- Creating video content
- The latest technology for creating videos
- Digital tools for flipping
- Tips for Effective Videos

LESSON 4: Ideas, Tips and Collaboration

- Accommodating all learners and Peer Instruction
- Collaboration between students, parents and school
- Flipping faculty meetings
- Flipping across grade levels

ONLINE: Formative Assessment

"Finally, formative assessments are easily explained. Thank you.
Your information on rubrics was amazing." – Lisa L.

Three years ago Brian Creasman became principal of a "low performing" high school and was confronted with these two questions. A high school classified as "low performing" obviously is not a title any teacher, administrator, student or parent wants for their school.

Out of everything (curriculum alignment, effective instructional strategies, etc.) Mr. Creasman learned that for an assessment to be effective, it should also be formative. Keep in mind that effective formative assessments result in instruction that meets the needs of each student.

Formative assessments allow teachers to respond to the needs of the student quickly, however more importantly it allows the student to shape instruction. The formative assessment program there continues and is constantly changing for the better.

Take the next step. Learn about and implement formative assessments in your school to discover and demonstrate for yourself, your students and your community what happens when *a school moves in this direction and you know students are truly learning*.

ONLINE: Formative Assessment

Course Outline

LESSON 1: The Essentials

- Concepts behind and purpose of Formative Assessment.
- Practical strategies that may be used to implement formative assessment.
- Commonly used formative assessments, including teacher observation, questioning, rubrics, essays and peer assessment.
- Benefits of each strategy and how they can be used effectively.

LESSON 2: Nuts and Bolts

- The process of formative assessment.
- Concepts behind goal mastery.
- The importance of feedback, reports, visual depiction and celebration in formative assessment.
- Designing lesson plans that integrate formative assessment.

LESSON 3: Making Connections

- The role of assessment in standards-based education.
- Formative and summative assessments, and the difference between the two.

ONLINE: Fundraising Basics for Teachers

"I never realized how fun and valuable fundraising can be for students."

– Nora T.

No teacher looks forward to realizing that an exciting new teaching idea is not feasible because of a budget shortage. There may have been occasions when teachers wanted to fundraise, but decided not to, just because they were not sure how to start.

Fundraising for the Classroom is an online course designed to help teachers understand that raising funds is not as daunting as it appears. With some planning and effort, fundraising might just turn out to be fun!

This course guides teachers through successful ways to create fundraising plans, draft fundraising proposals, put together a fundraising team, approach corporate organizations and other potential funders, and execute and implement their plan. The resources and examples included here equip teachers to effectively raise the funds they need to successfully engage students in the learning process.

ONLINE: Fundraising Basics for Teachers

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Overview of Educational Fundraising

- Possible Fundraising Goals
- Common Concerns while Fundraising
- The Fundraising Process

LESSON 2: Planning and Considerations

- Conducting research into fundraising topics and processes
- Fundraising Committees and Strategies
- Sources for Fundraising
- Budget and Timeline

LESSON 3: Preparing a Good Proposal

- Objectives of a Proposal
- Types of Proposals
- Writing a Proposal
- Elements of a Proposal

LESSON 4: Implementation and Follow-up

- Key Stakeholders
- Promotion and Advertising
- Ethics, Monitoring, and Transparency
- Event Review, Report, and Follow-up

ONLINE: Grant Writing

""I learned information about grant writing that I did not know. This information will help me in the future."

– Mary Jo L.

Every teacher dreams of an ideal world where the lack of funds or access to resources would not get in the way of sparking creativity, sharpening talent and widening horizons in education. Grant writing, as a craft, is a step closer to achieving that dream. What can seem to be a complex set of processes, is a learnable skill, that can help teachers address both long-term and short-term goals. This online PD course presents a context that makes grant writing an essential skill while detailing the components of a grant application and the process of writing including assessing needs, developing an idea, writing a compelling statement, defining clear goals and objectives, developing a course of action and an evaluation plan, and drafting budget proposals.

This online course for teachers offers a look at some winning grant proposals to help teachers understand what a good proposal contains. Besides presenting principles, the class allows time for reflection, brainstorming and writing, to help teachers as they go through each section.

ONLINE: Grant Writing

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Rationale and Guidelines

- Meaning and relevance of grant writing
- Broad guidelines for grant writing process
- Brainstorming to identify needs that can be addressed through grants
- Selecting points from an actual proposal

LESSON 2: Understanding your Grant Requirements

- Categorizing needs
- Understanding technological grants
- Thinking through details of different grant categories
- Creating a budget proposal

LESSON 3: Identifying Potential Funders

- Learning to identify productive sources for funds
- A look at professional development grants
- Exploring classroom enrichment and STEM grants
- Survey of grants for arts, students with disabilities and technology donations

LESSON 4: Securing a Grant

- Focus on writing style and format
- Understanding components of a grant proposal
- When and how to draft a short letter proposal
- Sending the proposal

ONLINE: Guided Reading

""I enjoyed the class and look forward to trying many of the ideas I got from it."

– Mary Jo L.

Guided reading proves to be one of the most effective tools, not only to improve a student's fundamental reading skills, but also to develop high level comprehension skills. The teacher's role in guided reading is to provide support, but the ultimate goal is independent reading of a variety of texts with ease and deeper understanding.

Guided reading is presented as an instructional approach to create independent readers and thinkers through strategies that can ensure success such as selecting appropriate text, reflecting, recapping, self-monitoring, analyzing the text, involving parents and more. Teachers will learn how to implement a guided reading program, adapting it to the needs of various kinds of learners and across different subjects, such as math, science and history. Teachers are provided with resources and activities to engage students as well as tips and management strategies to best use space, resources, materials and technology in a manner that students are propelled to greater proficiency.

ONLINE: Guided Reading

Course Outline

LESSON 1: An Overview

- Integrating Guided Reading into classroom curriculum, following step by step proposed plan to adapt it
- Examining the pros and cons of traditional vs Guided Reading groups, and its various components
- A look at the foundational principles of Guided Reading, and how these make teaching more effective and relevant
- Impact of Guided Reading, and its implementation across grades

LESSON 2: Procedure

- Exploring the different ways teachers can implement a Guided Reading instruction program to match individual student needs
- Examining Manzo's 9 steps to improve reading comprehension among students through guided learning methods
- A look at strategies to provide differentiated instruction, to reach every child
- Stages of reading and assessing student levels by specific characteristics

LESSON 3: Strategies

- Implementing Guided Reading by integrating strategies so that students can learn to comprehend, predict, question, make mental images and summarize as they read
- Tips for implementing age-appropriate strategies to match student age and intellect
- Examining the scope, implementation of Guided Reading for ELLs (English Language Learners), CCNs (Complex Communication Needs) and students with special needs
- Understanding the application of Guided Reading across curriculum to help students learn to think critically, make deductions, improve their memory, pay attention to detail, remember facts and figures accurately and recall events with a photographic memory
- Examining the challenges faced during Guided Reading

LESSON 4: Resources and Organization

- Practical tips for effective implementation of the Guided Reading Program, and using resources creatively
- Tips to manage student behavior, striking the perfect balance
- Learning the key to staying organized
- Assessing the reading level of students, and exploring its various components
- Using technology effectively for Guided Reading groups

ONLINE: How to Teach Online for the Classroom Teacher

As educators we know that technology is a means, and now a must, to enhance student learning. Moving classroom learning online can be an uncomfortable thought for teachers-especially those who have never taught, or perhaps not even ever taken an online class. This course helps prepare for teaching continuity when classrooms are transitioned to distance learning.

In this course, teachers go through the process of preparing to teach online while also being introduced to tools and resources that can be useful when teaching online. Classroom teachers can quickly transition to becoming effective online teachers.

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Online Learning Myths
- Research
- Online Teaching Myths
- Asynchronous and Synchronous Learning
- Blended Learning
- LMS

LESSON 2: Delivering Content Online

- Google Classroom
- Email
- Blogs
- Social Media Platforms
- Webinars
- Collaborative Whiteboard
- Videos

LESSON 3: Assessment through Collaboration and Engagement

- Engaging Assessments and tools
- Collaborative Assessments and tools

LESSON 4: Planning and Safety Considerations

- Tools for Planning
- Planning Template
- Safety Considerations
- Grooming and Predators
- Cyberbullying
- Boundaries
- Communicating with Parents
- Agreements and Contracts

ONLINE: Hybrid Teaching with Google Classroom

Remote and hybrid learning models are fast becoming a mainstay of our educational experience. Packed with valuable tips and insights, this online course will transform your Google Classroom. Teachers will learn how to:

☑ Utilize Google Classroom as a tool for inclusive education

☑ Plan flexible lessons and curricula using unique Google Classroom features

☑ Learn how to create Google Classroom content – including videos, quizzes, games, and more!

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Introduction to hybrid teaching through Google Classroom
- Synchronous and asynchronous learning
- Flexibility in schedule, independent learning skills, and written communication
- Individualizing feedback and providing alternate activities for diverse learners in a hybrid classroom
- Implementing learning programs both synchronously and asynchronously

LESSON 2: Hybrid lesson planning

- Planning flexible lessons for a hybrid classroom
- Converting in-person lessons into online lessons
- Creating flexible lesson plans that can be implemented for both online and in-person classrooms
- Strategizing teaching methods and designing curricula to cater to individual student needs

LESSON 3: Google Classroom

- Implementing G Suite for Education at the school and district level
- Using Google Classroom: signing up, feedback and grading, adding materials, creating quizzes, and making announcements
- Integrating Google Meet into Google Classroom
- Exploring the advanced features of Google Classroom: checking for plagiarism, creating a teacher room, and curriculum planning

LESSON 4: Videos and Assessments

- Creating teaching videos through PowerPoint, camera recording, and screencasting
- Editing software for teaching videos
- Sharing teaching videos on Google Classroom
- Tools for assessments on Google Classroom: polls and pop-up quizzes, games, worksheets, surveys, and question libraries

ONLINE: IEPs – Documentation and Implementation for Teachers

"This was super helpful.
I now know a lot more about what's going on
when I'm sitting in an IEP meeting!"

— Rebecka R.

The goal of this course is to help teachers understand the IEP process and build the teachers comfort level in developing, aligning with and carrying out the IEP through rich examples and templates to help teachers understand and practically use the recommended strategies in a classroom setting.

This course helps teachers provide children who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) with an appropriate education in the least restrictive environment. It is designed to educate the educators on the various regulations and requirements while helping to develop a team that works together to improve educational results for children with special needs. Teachers will examine various supports and services a student with special needs may receive for instruction and testing.

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Research
- Common Special Education Terms
- Understanding IDEA
- Understanding IEP
- Understanding Section 504
- The Special Education Process

LESSON 2: The IEP Team

- Setting up the IEP team
- Roles and responsibilities of IEP team members
- IEP Team Process
- Typical IEP Meeting
- Preparing for an IEP Meeting

LESSON 3: Developing a Standards-based IEP

- Components of a Standards-based IEP
- Standards-based annual goals
- Post-secondary Goals
- Student Assessment
- Student Progress
- Identifying Special Education Services
- Year- End Evaluations

LESSON 4: Translating IEP goals

- Models of School-based Interventions
- Classroom Accommodations and Modifications
- Barriers to Effective use of Accommodations
- General Types of Accommodations
- Effective Teaching Strategies/Instructional Accommodations
- Testing and Timing Accommodations
- Grading with Accommodations

ONLINE: Inquiry-based Learning

"I love how this course caters to student curiosity, and lets the kids lead the class."

– Guadalupe R.

Preparing teachers for 21st century students requires a close look at what it means to teach and learn in increasingly networked, technology-rich, digital classrooms. Schools and teachers need to thoughtfully and intentionally design learning environments and tasks in which teachers explore issues that are relevant while developing pedagogies that are effective for a knowledge era. Utilizing new images and acquiring new expertise facilitates meaningful learning with technology.

This course offers a framework for teachers to plan lessons that promote Inquiry-based Learning (IBL). Starting with explaining a need for such a shift in education, the course shows how an IBL classroom works. Through multiple classroom examples, teachers are able to understand what specific and new roles they play and how to encourage student initiative, while ensuring that the focus remains on productive matters. The Inquiry-based Learning course details some models that teachers can adapt to meet specific needs of their class, as well as to monitor and enhance the learning of their students. Teachers learn practical and dynamic ways of evaluating their students' progress while also incorporating technology for better results.

ONLINE: Inquiry-based Learning

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction to IBL

- The need of an Inquiry Based Learning (IBL) approach and knowing the constituents involved.
- Academic research that supports IBL.
- Differences between IBL and traditional education.
- Define roles of teachers and students.

LESSON 2: Inquiry-based Learning Model

- The need for a model to apply the IBL approach.
- Various models developed by academicians.
- Practical applications of the inquiry model for teaching lessons.
- The emotional trajectory of an inquiry process.

LESSON 3: Designing IBL

- The foundations for IBL through effective lesson plans and activities.
- Ways to classify students based on their understanding and experience with IBL.
- Manage the dynamic classroom environment.
- Principles and methods of assessing students.

LESSON 4: Enhancing the IBL Classroom

- Creation of a support system for effective inquiry-based learning.
- Use of technology to enhance the IBL experience.
- Technology as a tool for professional development.
- Web tools that can help at different stages of inquiry.

ONLINE: Integrating Standards in Teaching

"This course was more informative on understanding the terminology than I got from any school district in my 37 years of teaching."

- Renee F.

We're told that a standards-based curriculum is supposed to increase student learning and promote higher student achievement, but what is it really all about?

This course helps educators untangle what turns out to be the not-so-mysterious-language of today's teaching and learning and put successful strategies into practice.

ONLINE: Integrating Standards in Teaching

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Standards

- What standards are and the difference between content and performance standards.
- Challenges that teachers and schools face while integrating standards.
- About the Common Core standards.

LESSON 2: Integrating Standards

- Integrated Curriculum.
- Levels of integration.
- Discipline Integration, Combined Integration, Multidiscipline Integration, Interdisciplinary Integration and Transdisciplinary Integration and how these can be implemented in the classroom.

LESSON 3: Impact on People, Instruction and Planning

- The teacher's role and the student's role in planning.
- Procedural and conceptual knowledge.
- Evaluating standards and building a framework in order to implement them.
- The importance of learning objectives.

LESSON 4: Principles of Assessment

- Pre-assessment.
- Difference between formative and summative assessments.
- Concepts related to designing and implementing assessments including backward design and testing.
- Principle of authentic assessment.

ONLINE: Internet Safety in a Connected World

"I enjoyed this course and feel much better prepared as a teacher and parent regarding technology."

– Marjorie J.

Issues that the youth of today, parents, teachers and those who are part of their world face online is the essence of this content. Participants discover areas of the Internet used by youth, what kinds of threats exist on the Internet and how everyone can protect their loved ones, family members, students and those under their care or responsibility. A special focus of the course includes ways in which adults can protect themselves online.

- Social networks
- Instant messaging & texting
- Chat rooms
- Gaming & virtual worlds
- Vulnerabilities of Children Online
- Cyberbullying
- Online predators
- Tips & tools for protecting children online
- And more….

ONLINE: Internet Safety in a Connected World

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Connecting on the Internet

- Social networking as an integral part of everyday life
- Features and red flags of social networking sites commonly used by teens
- Posting and viewing photographs and videos safely
- Latest wearable technology – Smart Watches

LESSON 2: The Internet in Daily Life

- Diverse means of electronic communication – Chatting, Emails and Blogs
- Gaming and virtual world – a distraction for modern teens
- Electronic Commerce - Online shopping and traces of online activities - Digital footprints
- Dangers that exist when not careful about safety and privacy on the internet
- Interactive Scenarios:
- Handling peer pressure and secure chatting options
- Effects of gaming

LESSON 3: Downloading from the Internet

- Shielding unauthorized copying and piracy
- Sending out files
- Literary theft – Plagiarism and its categories
- Software that harms computers and guidelines to prevent this

LESSON 4: Staying Safe on the Internet

- Online Predators and their behaviors – Grooming and gifting
- Cyberbullying – Forms and effects
- Monitoring software and parental controls with usage agreements
- Reporting online crimes, gathering evidence, and calling for help

ONLINE: Introduction to Autism

""The course content was very insightful and interesting. It definitely provided me with more information to better understand my students, their needs, and strategies."

- Tiffany O.

Most of us know someone with autism. This neurodevelopmental condition impacts a student's ability to communicate, form social skills, and manage sensory challenges often affecting their academic potential and learning style in the classroom. A person with autism may experience thinking, remembering events, reacting and communicating in a unique way. In this course, educators will find tried and tested strategies, tips, real-life examples and insights to create more inclusive classroom and help students on the autism spectrum thrive.

ONLINE: Introduction to Autism

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Overview

- Definition
- Symptoms and other similar conditions
- Therapies
- Labeling neurodevelopmental disorders
- The brain in Autism Spectrum Disorder

LESSON 2: Social Skills in ASD

- Social skills and related challenges.
- Theory of the Mind
- Teaching non-verbal learners
- Verbal processing, echolalia, perseveration, and scripting
- Abstract language, eye contact, empathy, spatial terms, and pronouns

LESSON 3: Expressions of Autism

- Sensory hyposensitivity and hypersensitivity
- Splintered development, perseveration, and stress
- Part-to-whole or whole-to-part thinking
- The lack of social motivation and imagination in children with ASD
- Extraordinary abilities

LESSON 4: ASD in School

- Neurological differences in children with ASD
- Central Coherence Theory
- Classroom physical environment
- Teaching materials and strategies
- Behavior management strategies
- Working with parents and team

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ONLINE: Introduction to Technology

This course introduces and examines technology for educators teaching in a variety of contexts including face-to-face, online and hybrid. You will develop a better understanding of how to use technology tools and resources to increase engagement in learning and enhance your instructional practices. Tutorials and tips demonstrate applications and guide teachers in improving tech skills and gaining confidence in use.

Course Outline

LESSON 1:

- Basics of Computer
- Email
- Benefits and harmful effects of technology
- Devices and gadgets for the Classrooms

LESSON 2:

- Platforms and providers
- Spreadsheets and Word processing
- Presentation software
- Organization using cloud-based storage applications

LESSON 3:

- Interactive aspects of technology
- Digital Scavenger Hunts
- Interactive quizzes and activities
- Design tools

LESSON 4:

- Types and Models of Learning
- Flipped and Hybrid Classroom
- Learning Management Systems
- Webinars and Video Conferencing tools

ONLINE: iPads in the Classroom

"The ideas are very practical and helpful to my teaching practice and classroom."

– Michael K.

The iPad helps us prepare today's student for today's world in more ways than we could ever do using traditional teaching strategies. This course has been specially designed for teachers who are just beginning to use iPads or those who are considering using them.

This course will help teachers gain knowledge about different ways by which the iPad can be integrated into the process of learning. In addition to practical learning activites and ideas, it helps the teacher prepare the classroom environment and schedule for the introduction of iPads.

At the end of this course teachers will be able to:

- Learn to use an iPad
- Find and use apps for teaching
- Organize iPad activities in the classroom
- Set up the classroom environment to encourage efficient iPad use
- Manage technical tasks related to iPad maintainace
- Use iPads to teach and practice 21st century skills including communicating, collaborating, connecting, creating and critical thinking.

And so much more!

ONLINE: iPads in the Classroom

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Understanding the role and limitations of iPads in education.
- Exploring how iPads can be used to develop skills essential in the 21st century.
- Identifying traits of automation, transformation and pioneering as integral to the current world.
- Importance of developing a smooth workflow, learning flow and fluency in the use of iPads in the classroom.

LESSON 2: iPads as A Teaching and Learning Tool

- Understanding the importance of integrating iPads into the classroom.
- Examining iPads as an effective tool in fulfilling essential teaching functions, from routine tasks, to curating information.
- The ability of iPads to promote student learning through differentiation, personalization, and ultimate enhancement of individual learning.

LESSON 3: iPads and Basic Classroom Management

- The features, advantages and challenges of the different types of iPad distribution among students.
- Considerations and importance of creating a classroom management plan to facilitate smooth iPad integration into the learning process.
- Creating appropriate class rules, securing students' focus, implementing procedures and setting expectations, keeping the use of iPad in focus.

LESSON 4: Ten 'Must Have' Types of Apps

- Identifying useful apps that support common functions like presentations, screen casting and note taking in the classroom.
- Exploring practical ways to integrate these apps into lessons.

"Child Abuse is complex."

Children are vulnerable. We need to do what we can to protect them from abuse, trafficking and other forms of child maltreatment that are very real and present around us. Keeping Kids Safe is a short introduction to child safety that helps us understand why children trust their abusers, and what we can do to prevent that. It will help us train our eyes to see child maltreatment around us, and create environments where children are safe. In addition, this short course has a special focus on trafficking, one of the types of child maltreatment that is most frequently misunderstood.

Course Outline

LESSON

- Identifying the different types of trafficking
- Recognizing the signs and indicators of trafficking
- Understanding the misconceptions about human trafficking
- Introducing the grooming techniques employed by traffickers to victimize vulnerable targets
- Strategies for prevention of trafficking in our communities
- Methods of reporting suspected or actual trafficking situations

ONLINE: Language Acquisition

*"I learned information that
I will use to teach English Language Learners."*

– Patricia F.

Delve into theories of the language acquisition process, and uncover practical ways for teachers to help English Language Learners understand lesson content.

Through the strategies and information provided in this course, teachers are equipped to meet students at their specific stage of language learning and create aligned activities thus helping students achieve higher levels of linguistic fluency.

The techniques presented cover the acquisition and mastery of literacy skills for students including reading, writing and dialogue, as well as understanding and supporting English Language Learners at a deeper level.

ONLINE: Language Acquisition

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction to Language Acquisition

- Considering how language is acquired.
- Distinction between learning and acquiring a language.
- Rules of Language.
- Two types of language acquisition -Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS) and Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP); and their classroom implications.
- The meanings and need for Comprehensible Input and Interactionism in the classroom.
- Age related considerations in the acquisition of a language and related pronunciations.

LESSON 2: The Acquisition Process

- The stages of language acquisition and the characteristics, duration and strategies of each; The Silent Period, Early Production, Speech Emergence, Intermediate Proficiency, Advanced Proficiency.
- Reception and production of oral language vs. reception and production of written language.
- Reciprocity between oral skills and written skills in second languages.

LESSON 3: Literacy Skills – Reading

- Why Literacy skills are essential to school success.
- "Balanced Literacy" approach and its principles.
- Choosing appropriate texts.
- The Language Experience Approach for early reading development with first Language Learners.
- Context-based activities that can be used with emergent readers in diverse classrooms.
- Top-down approaches to reading and phonics for a balanced literacy program.

LESSON 4: Writing and Dialogue

- Shared or modeled writing to benefit writers at early stages.
- Free writing vs. a structured writing approach and using a balanced approach of both.
- Dialogue journals, to foster on going written conversation between two students or between the teacher and a student.
- Process writing stages – Prewriting, Drafting, Peer Review, Revising and Publishing.
- Using Instructional Conversation (IC) effectively and ensuring authenticity.

ONLINE: Mathematics for All Teachers

"This course opened my eyes to the importance of making sure math is not just a repetition of practicing problems but making sure it is relevant to the children's lives."

- Jennifer A.

Math is a subject that is very connected with every other subject taught in the classroom. This course is designed to help any teacher gain confidence in areas related to mathematics and the common core. It is a great start for teachers looking to implement STEM and other models of integrated education.

Mathematics for All Teachers helps teachers understand math practices and application of math. It helps teachers understand ways in which these practices can be incorporated into any classroom, explains the different ways a teacher can enhance student learning, and encourages teachers to set up their classroom in a way that increases student involvement and makes math real and fun for everyone.

Mathematics education is changing today and is no more just about solving questions on paper. It's all about application and using math in real ways. This course will help equip Math, Science, Language Arts and Social Studies teachers to gain confidence in integrating math effectively in their teaching practice. And so much more!

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Math for All

- History of Mathematics.
- Standards and Mathematics today.
- The truth about Math.
- Discrediting the different math myths.
- The solution to math anxiety.

LESSON 2: Standards-based Math Practices

- Mathematics redefined.
- NCTM and CCSS standards related to Math.
- Mathematical practices and strategies to employ in the classroom.

LESSON 3: Facilitating Student Learning

- Motivation theories and how to apply them in the classroom.
- Different learning styles.
- Understanding conceptual basis of math facts and procedures.
- Teacher attitudes about Math.

LESSON 4: Reaching Standards

- Math and Group Work.
- Making connections between math and real life.
- Using mathematical tools.
- Encouraging persistence, providing novelty, and differentiating instruction while teaching math.
- Assessing students and encouraging self-assessment.
- Modifying the physical classroom setting to promote learning.

ONLINE: Mobile Technology in the Classroom

Mobile devices can be an integral part of learning, when used intentionally. Teachers integrate smartphones, tablets, iPads, Kindle and more into everyday classroom activities while achieving learning targets.

In this course, teachers learn strategies for procurement of devices, how to screen apps, as well as to create technology-based lesson plans, activities and assessments that incorporate mobile devices. Mobile technology enables collaboration and shared learning beyond traditional methods resulting in students becoming stronger communicators. Furthermore, individualizing instruction can become simpler with mobile devices in the hands of students.

Introducing mobile technology in the classroom needs not be a technological initiative but rather an educational endeavor to help students learn while enjoying it at the same time. Teachers in this course learn to consider challenges and create safe practices for student security and safety. No longer will cell phones distract from learning.

ConnectedPD
from https://ProfessionalLearningBoard.com

ONLINE: Mobile Technology in the Classroom

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Learning with Mobile Devices

- Looking into the essential elements of mobile learning.
- Considering the Technological Infrastructure requirements.
- Understanding the SAMR model to mobile learning.

LESSON 2: Mobile Learning Implementation Policies

- Creating policies for implementation of mobile learning.
- Discussion of policies related to network accessibility, security, devices, and professional development.
- Analysis of the types of mobile learning programs in schools.

LESSON 3: Smartphones and Tablets in the Classroom

- Getting students started with mobile technology in the classroom.
- Introducing mobile devices like smartphones and tablets in the classroom.
- Using the different apps available with a number of practical ideas for classroom practice.

LESSON 4: Other Mobile Technology

- Motivating students from different backgrounds and with different disadvantages to enjoy reading using e-readers.
- A discussion about how to derive the maximum benefits from portable media devices.
- Ensuring students get a feel of the reality of what they study by introducing the concept of virtual reality through mobile devices.

ONLINE: Partnering with Parents

*"Very good content;
I really appreciated the examples given and
the extra resources that were included."*

– Priya A.

Many parents need motivation and support to help them partner with the teacher. In our profession as teachers, we must partner with the parents of our students. The "dream parents" are cooperative, freely volunteer and carry on the learning process at home. However, many parents need motivation and support to help them partner with the teacher.

In this course, you will learn about various personalities and come away with an understanding of why parents think the way that they do. You will also discover strategies that you can use in a number of common challenging situations teachers face while working with parents. Finally, learn more about planning and organizing activities in your school.

This course will help you enhance your professional interaction and communication skills as well as help you build lasting relationships with the parents of your students.

ONLINE: Partnering with Parents

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Structure of teacher and parent partnerships across grade levels.
- Common obstacles to partnership.
- Dealing with some of the special challenges in the partnership process.

LESSON 2: Understanding the Parent

- Parent types, learning to recognize them and applying the strategies that are suitable for that specific parent type to create successful partnerships.
- Basic needs across parent types and how teachers may meet these needs.

LESSON 3: Partnering strategies

- Ways in which parents can partner, both in the school and from home.
- Volunteering at school and the benefits for the student, teacher and parent.
- Volunteering opportunities available for parents in the form of academic activities, creative activities, social activities, support activities and leadership positions.
- Communication methods and strategies.

LESSON 4: Building Lasting Relationships

- How the teachers' attitude and communication style can make or break the partnership relationship.
- Communication is addressed in detail especially relating to various situations such as: when there's an Issue, when parents volunteer and discussing students.
- Responding to challenging situations such as parental anger, disruptive students, cheating, stealing, violence & bullying, academic issues and lies.

"I now know that getting peer perspectives can make my lessons more interesting and less biased."

– Juan L.

High-quality teaching has become a national priority in recent times, particularly in the context of the No Child Left Behind Act. This focus in turn highlights the need for meaningful evaluation of teachers that would encourage continuous improvement. Peer review of teaching is a form of teacher evaluation that involves colleagues in an often reciprocal process of observing, analyzing, providing feedback and reporting. Thus it opens up opportunity for accurate assessment of the effectiveness of teaching and having informed discussions among equals that focuses on development.

This course presents resources, research-validated strategies, practical tips and examples to equip teachers with the necessary toolkit to seamlessly turn evaluation into a springboard for improvement in teaching practice. Some questions answered in this course include – What is peer review or peer evaluation? How does it benefit teachers and the larger system? Who can be involved in a peer review program? What does research have to say about it? What is the focus of a peer review process?

The course also details principles of peer review of teaching, various types of review, methods of peer evaluation, guidelines to ensure effective evaluation, the process of providing feedback, using evaluation for change and tools that can be used for the process. Peer evaluation in an online or blended learning context is also discussed in the course.

ONLINE: Peer Review of Teaching

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction to Peer Review

- Meaning, types and principles of peer review
- Advantages of peer review
- Guidelines for effective application of peer review
- Addressing challenges of peer review

LESSON 2: Peer Review Protocols

- How to develop a statement of purpose
- Overview of methods of peer evaluation
- Important aspects to be evaluated
- Stages in classroom observation protocol

LESSON 3: Tips & Tools for Peer Observation

- Guidelines for choosing partner
- Tools to facilitate peer observation
- Looking at rubrics for peer observation
- Reviewing online and blended learning

LESSON 4: Resources for the Evaluator

- Framework for self-reflection
- Practical tips and examples for providing relevant feedback
- Learning to consolidate notes and report
- Identifying areas of growth and developing action plan

ONLINE: Preparing College & Career Ready Students

*"This course has given me
a better understanding
of teaching to prepare students for their futures."*

– Kelly E.

Prepare your students for a successful college and career using a range of research-based readiness strategies. Most students aspire to go to college and make a successful career, but few know what it takes to reach their goal.

The tools, templates, and creative ideas in this course will provide the research-based support needed at every critical stage to make all the difference for success.

The course will also discuss specific strategies teachers can implement to make student readiness for college and career even more meaningful and effective.

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Need for College and Career Readiness

- Equipping students with the different facets of college education.
- Importance of the 4 Cs - critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity.
- Understanding CCSSI (Common Core State Standards Initiative) and ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act).
- Preparing students for college and workplace environment with academic and technical skills.

LESSON 2: Planning for College and Career Readiness

- Awareness of multiple career choices.
- Essential classroom practices to prepare the students.
- Analysis of critical skills required to equip students for the demands of colleges and workplaces in the 21st century.
- Empowering teachers with the four keys - Cognitive Strategies, Content Knowledge, Learning Skills and Techniques, Transition Knowledge and Skills.

LESSON 3: Principles of Implementing CCR

- Integrating 'Career Ready Lesson Plan'.
- Principles and practical strategies to prepare students for the real world outside the classroom.
- Importance of Summer Bridge Courses.
- Incorporating hands-on experience activities to gain an in-depth insight into actual workplaces.

LESSON 4: Enhancing College and Career Resources

- Execution of the principles of Career and Technical Education (CTE) to equip students for college and career.
- Implementation of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), supported by SAFE STEM programs.
- Relevance of career counselling.
- Partnering with employers to indulge students in work related activities.

ONLINE: Preparing for Teaching Evaluations

"I feel a lot less nervous about evaluations now that I know what to expect!"

– Omar G.

Teaching is a demanding and challenging profession. To be a teacher-of-record, a teacher should demonstrate extensive subject-area knowledge, pedagogical knowledge, and a professional teaching ability. Most importantly, their "effectiveness" must demonstrate a positive impact on student outcomes. How do we ensure that? The answer lies in a great evaluation system, which confirms teacher quality. But the top question is - What's in it for teachers?

This course details how to "ensure quality" with the help of regular Teacher Evaluations, and use it as a stepping stone to strengthen knowledge, skills, and classroom practices. The ultimate goal is to propel student growth and learning, while inspiring teachers to excel in their teaching practice. However, the success of this lies in meaningful exchanges between the students and teachers.

The practical strategies, examples, and expert suggestions presented in this course will facilitate professional growth of teachers. It will allow them to refine their teaching skills, critically analyze their own performance and the performance of their students. The resources included within the course help teachers measure the criterion and standards for evaluation and apply them in their teaching.

ONLINE: Preparing for Teaching Evaluations

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Understanding Teacher Evaluation: An Overview

- Defining teacher evaluation, and exploring how, who and when to evaluate
- Exploring the purpose and guiding principles of a meaningful evaluation
- Benefits of teacher evaluations
- NCLB Act and what teacher evaluation is not
- Overcoming obstacles with a positive outlook

LESSON 2: Models of Evaluation

- Components of teacher evaluation models critical to the development, implementation and effectiveness of a comprehensive approach
- Popular assessment models used in different states and districts
- Preparing teachers for assessments with a closer look at each evaluation model

LESSON 3: Understanding the Process

- Exploring the multiple measures of teacher performance
- Understanding the three distinct steps involved in evaluating teachers
- Pre-evaluation, Evaluation, and Post-evaluation
- Attributes of an effective teacher
- Evaluation timeline explained with an example
- Accommodating students with special needs

LESSON 4: Reflection & Resources

- Self-reflection and easy strategies to stay on track
- Retrospection into classroom management, goals, design and delivery of knowledge
- Feedback, handling negative comments
- Making changes for an improved performance
- 'SMART' goal system for success
- Seeking help, before and after evaluations
- Tips for successful evaluation
- Keeping parents in the loop

ONLINE: Project Management for Students through Project-based Learning

"I had so much fun with this course!"

– Sarah S.

Project management encompasses a range of skills that are highly prized in the world today and include – research, collaboration, communication, leadership, problem-solving and cooperation.

For the education system to truly fulfill its purpose of preparing students for a world that requires a mastery of such skills, teachers must be able to find ways to integrate project management training into their classrooms without disrupting the curricular learning.

Keeping in view the challenges this poses, teachers are presented with project-based learning, as a means to successfully develop students' needed skills, while simultaneously keeping the focus on topics within the curriculum. The integration of projects into classroom teaching is based on the finding that, often the best way students learn is by doing. Teachers are provided with a range of examples and strategies, along with an in-depth view into the effective use of projects, and understanding of how they can influence student growth at every stage.

ONLINE: Project Management for Students through Project-based Learning

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Importance of Project Management

- Exploring new concepts and strategies to enable students connect with real-world situations.
- Research findings of Project Based Learning.
- Real learning versus test performance.
- Guidelines for teachers working with the Project Based Learning system.

LESSON 2: Planning for Successful Project Based Learning

- Basic guidelines to consider before selecting a project.
- Ensuring authentic learning for students.
- Effective technology use during a project.
- Developing classroom culture.

LESSON 3: Stages of Successful Implementation

- Stages of projects with examples for implementing.
- Scaffold learning.
- Existing project opportunities.
- Common challenges and unexpected changes during a project.

LESSON 4: Resources and Engagement

- Project examples with management skills to execute them.
- Integrating technology in project management.
- Importance of community connect for successful implementation of the project.
- Funding sources and online databases that teachers can approach for grants.

ONLINE: Public Speaking for Teachers

*"I am much more confident
giving lectures having taken this course."*

– Lois N.

A competent and resourceful teacher must be able to effectively relate to and communicate with students, the school community, peers, parents and even school support structures such as the school board or the PTA. However, most teachers dread speaking in public speaking. Through the research and strategies in this course, teachers examine how to manage these fears and perfect related skills. Teachers are shown how they can identify and work on specific problem areas and consequently improve their communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal, as well as their technical skills. The resources included show teachers how to structure their speeches and harness technology to deliver effective speeches.

Questions answered in this course include – How do teachers really communicate in a classroom? How does a teacher prepare to speak at a board meeting? What should I keep in mind when meeting with the parents of students? This course is rich in examples, considerations, suggestions and tips for teachers to improve public speaking skills.

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Understanding Public Speaking

- Understanding public speaking, its types and models
- Problems associated with public speaking
- Myths about public speaking
- Dealing with problem areas

LESSON 2: Building Essential Skills

- Understanding the different verbal skills needed for public speaking
- How nonverbal communication skills affect public speaking and how to work on them
- The importance of listening skills
- Technological skills

LESSON 3: Resources for Public Speaking

- Preparing an effective speech
- Effective use of different visual aids and media as presentation aids:
  - PowerPoint or similar digital presentations using presentation software
  - Overhead projectors
  - Chalkboard/dry erase board
  - Flip Charts
  - Interactive Whiteboards
  - Artifacts
  - Videos
  - Written Handouts

LESSON 4: Public Speaking in Schools

- Understanding different public speaking contexts for an educator:
  - Classroom teaching
  - Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meetings
  - In Parent teacher conferences
  - In conferences and conventions for teachers
  - In a board meeting
  - Inter-school competitive events
  - Key factors that could influence the preparation and delivery of a speech, presentation or class and considerations to keep in mind for the same.
  - Ethical public speaking

ONLINE: Raising Academic Achievement through Standards

"This course offered new learning and reinforced and renewed prior learning. Many great activities and strategies to implement."

- Judith C.

In the past, students who were failing were often sent for special education services whether or not they really needed it. However, the education system today aims to help all students succeed in the general educational setting. In such a setting, teachers play a critical role in identifying those who are struggling to learn and succeed in academics and intervening with help.

This course provides educators with information about academic interventions that can be incorporated in the classroom, through frameworks such as the RTI or even in the absence of such structures.

ONLINE: Raising Academic Achievement through Standards

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Standards and Academic Interventions

- Understanding standards in education
- Understanding and differentiating between core instruction, accommodations, modifications, and interventions
- Academic interventions, classroom intervention plans, and understanding warning signals of students at risk

LESSON 2: Response to Intervention

- Understanding Response to Intervention (RTI)
- Connecting RTI and standards
- Essential components of RTI
- Tiered interventions
- Challenges when implementing RTI

LESSON 3: Literacy interventions

- Importance of literacy skills
- Problems students face in literacy
- English Language Arts/Literacy
- Academic interventions for struggling readers
- Academic interventions for students struggling with writing skills

LESSON 4: Math intervention

- Importance of math
- Problems students face
- Math
- RTI and Math
- Specific interventions for improving math skills

ONLINE: Reading Across the Curriculum

"This was a great course for me to take. It has inspired me to do a few things differently in my classroom."

– Marcie E.

Reading is an essential component of learning. **Often when students struggle within a specific subject matter it is because of poor reading instruction and underdeveloped reading skills**.

This course teaches research-based and classroom proven reading instruction techniques that can be used across all content areas and grade levels to improve student achievement. The course prepares teachers to become better instructors. It suggests new ideas on motivating students to read more, and improve reading comprehension.

The course provides a large number of tools, exercises and additional resources that the teacher can use to practice skills learned in the lessons.

Dive into the world of reading instruction and strategies and get geared up to make your students proficient readers.

ONLINE: Reading Across the Curriculum

Course Outline

LESSON 1: The basics of developing reading skills

- The importance and nature of the 'reading' skill
- Language development in the early years
- Implications of different levels of daily language exposure
- Understanding how the brain processes what we already know and have experienced, to develop reading skills

LESSON 2: Reading assessments and varying student levels

- The true diversity in the range of students' reading abilities
- The purpose of reading assessments and components included to assess students' phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension
- Categories of reading assessments and their suitability for varying students
- Common reading assessments and their usage

LESSON 3: Making reading 'meaningful'

- Deconstructing the nature and essential elements of meaningful reading in your classroom
- The benefits of and the need for new lesson formats to replace traditional ones, including pre-reading elements to strengthen students' understanding of the text
- Making the actual reading process interactive and thorough by using reading guides, visual imagery, inquiry charts, questions and promoting word comprehension
- Effective ways to extend the life of the text beyond the lesson through post reading, vocabulary and fluency strategies

LESSON 4: Strategies for effective lesson planning

- Scaffolding a common textbook to support varying reading levels using four steps
- Using different books, on a common topic or learning objective to meet differing needs
- Question-Answer Relationships (QARS) as a way to teach students about various questions that arise while reading a text, and ways to answer them
- Effectively approaching different structures of texts

The capacity to read, and specifically, **the ability to comprehend what we read, enriches all areas of our lives** and influences our school performance, quality of life, career choices, leisure and relationships. This course explores the latest research to **help students develop strong reading comprehension skills**. It is full of strategies, illustrations, examples and practical tools that teachers can use in the classroom. Learn about ways to introduce students to new vocabulary, analyze content, develop perspectives and use graphic organizers. Teach students to question, draw inferences, visualize and make predictions. Teachers can use these in a range of subjects including language arts, science, geography, history, arts and music.

ONLINE: Reading in Content Areas

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Reading Fundamentals

- What is reading comprehension
- Reading disorders
- Assessments for reading, writing and spelling
- Reading at home and school
- Growth Mindset approach

LESSON 2: Reading Comprehension

- Reading development
- Strategies in building reading skills
- Working memory
- Vocabulary instruction

LESSON 3: Comprehension Strategies

- A Purpose for reading
- Art of questioning
- Visualization skills and inferencing
- Using Self-Monitoring and making predictions

LESSON 4: Text Structure

- Why text exists and why we read
- Graphic organizers
- Informational texts
- Digital text

ONLINE: Reading through Technology in the Classroom

"So many types of technology can serve as great reading tools, and are easy to use!"

– Barbara R.

Reading is an essential skill that is central to education. In today's classroom, students use and access information from a variety of sources, not just books. The skills of evaluating content, collaboration and peer-review become an important part of reading.

This course introduces creative strategies for reading instruction that incorporate technology. It introduces teachers to recent advances in technology and to devices and techniques which can be used to enhance reading in the classroom.

The course incorporates activities, strategies, and templates teachers can use in order to enhance students' reading skills using technology.

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Introducing technology in the Classroom
- Technology Tools
- Interactive Whiteboards and Clickers
- Mobile devices
- Computers
- Bring your own device (BYOD)
- Important Terms: Backups and Ergonomics

LESSON 2: Digital Reading Technologies

- Reading on an ebook
- Ebook reader explained
- Ebook reader technologies
- Tablet based ebook readers
- App based ebook readers
- Finding ebooks
- Reading on the Internet
- Using Digital libraries
- Virtual Book Clubs

LESSON 3: Technology Supported Reading

- Pre-reading strategies
- During Reading strategies
- After Reading strategies

LESSON 4: Collaborative Reading Through Technology

- Collaborative Reading using Technology
- Tools for collaborative Reading
- Collaborative Reading Strategies
- Collaborative Activities

ONLINE: Recognizing Early-onset Mental Health Disorders

"This course helped me to expand my knowledge base on mental health disorders."

– Dave M.

As educators and parents we are often, by default, among the first people to notice that a child may be experiencing problems. Completion of this course results in a basic understanding of warning signs of early-onset mental illness in children and adolescents which is useful to professional teaching and learning as it strengthens teacher-parent communications.

This course provides an understanding of key warning signs for early-onset mental illness in children and adolescents.

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction to Mental Illnesses

- An overview of the prevalence, nature, causes and experience of mental illnesses
- Understanding effective treatments and the role and limitations of medication
- The application of behavioral therapy and other creative therapies under the umbrella of Cognitive Behavior Therapy to target the root of the problem
- The stigma associated with mental illnesses and ways to combat it
- The educational implications of the evaluation and treatment of mental illnesses

LESSON 2: ADHD, ODD and Anxiety in the Classroom

- Understanding the manifestations of ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder) in the classroom and ways to manage behavior effectively in this context
- Examining the common signs, treatment and classroom strategies to deal with ODD (Oppositional Defiant Disorder) and CD (Conduct Disorder)
- The various subtypes within Anxiety Disorders, their treatment and classroom applications

LESSON 3: Other Mental Health Conditions in Children

- Symptoms and warning signs associated with OCD, Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, PTSD, etc.
- Examining treatments used in each disorder
- Classroom applications of the knowledge of such mental illnesses and strategies to deal with them

LESSON 4: The Team

- Working with parents of children with mental illnesses, and the need to understand their emotions during the process
- The role of mental health professionals and coordinating with them for the child's best interest
- Examining the IEP process – setting and evaluating appropriate learning goals
- Understanding assessments and assignments in the context of mental illnesses

"Great class!
Lots of practical value and advice."

– MaryRuth S.

Have you wondered if your efforts and hard work are paying off? Have you spent time pondering over whether your teaching strategies are appropriate for your class and reviewing the results?

Developing a process of reflective thinking or reflective practice is a viable solution to this problem. Reflective practice is considered to be central to effective teacher preparation programs and the development of professional competence.

A truly reflective teacher becomes sensitive and responsive to the needs, issues, and concerns that are so important in shaping qualitative educational practice. This course helps educators learn about various reflection and professional development practices that will enable you to become a reflective teacher and grow as an educational professional.

ONLINE: Reflective Teaching Practice

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Need for reflection.
- Critical attributes and attitudes of a reflective teacher.
- Types of reflection.
- Circle of Reflection.
- Levels of reflective thinking.
- Are you a reflective teacher?

LESSON 2: Reflective Thinking and Application

- Developing Reflective Practice.
- Factors that influence reflection.
- Applying reflection in practice using strategies such as reframing classroom situations, action research, learning journals, logs, diaries, teaching portfolios, autobiographical narratives, storytelling, critical incident analysis, and self-observation.

LESSON 3: Opportunities for Professional Growth

- Characteristics and types of job-embedded professional development.
- Practicing collaborative learning using various strategies like mentoring, peer observation, coaching, and so on.
- Building Effective Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).
- Enhancing traditional professional development through classroom visitation, conferences, learning study, examining student work, and workshops.

LESSON 4: Professional Development Plan

- Principles of PDP.
- Professional Development Cycle.
- Elements of PDP.
- Step-by-step guide to write a PDP.

LESSON 5: Optional Guide for Writing a Reflective Statement

- Step-by-step guide to write reflective statement with examples.
- Compiling professional development activities undertaken throughout the years into one statement.
- Different types of reflective statements with examples.

ONLINE: Research-based Instructional Strategies

"It is encouraging to see so many effective strategies backed by research. I will use these in my classroom!"

– Jennifer M.

To help students improve in academic achievement, develop an attitude of learning and acquire the skills needed for the demands of the work place and real life situations, educators must continually review, reflect on and work to improve their instructional skills.

This course provides teachers with research based approaches and strategies that can be incorporated into classrooms. These will improve the effectiveness of teacher led instruction and encourage active student involvement in learning. These strategies and approaches are shown to have numerous benefits resulting in increased student achievement and learning.

Through this course, teachers can also have a look at their own views about teaching and learning, gaining a research-based perspective on commonly believed myths in the educational field. Teachers are also provided with useful strategies in the areas of reading, writing and math. The course is rich in examples, templates and rubrics to help teachers understand and practically use the strategies in the classroom setting.

![ConnectedPD logo](from https://ProfessionalLearningBoard.com)

ONLINE: Research-based Instructional Strategies

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- The importance of education and a review of statistics of educational achievement in America.
- The benefits of incorporating research proven instructional strategies in the classroom.
- Myths related to learning and teaching and the truth revealed through research.

LESSON 2: Teacher-focused Approaches and Strategies

- Developing Reflective Practice.
- Understanding the learning process
- A look at research-based strategies focused on what the teacher can do in the classroom to improve student learning and achievement.
- Classroom application of strategies and approaches such as Daily review, Teaching in small steps, The use of cues, questions and advanced organizers, etc.

LESSON 3: Active Learning

- The importance of active student participation and engagement.
- Understanding student engagement and active learning.
- A look at research-based strategies focused on how the teacher can encourage students to be actively involved in the classroom with the aim of improving student engagement, learning and achievement.
- Activities and projects that a teacher can involve the students in, based on the strategies such as cooperative learning strategies, building thinking skills, effective note taking, etc.

LESSON 4: Research Based Strategies for Literacy and Math

- Understanding the importance of literacy.
- The elements required to develop good reading skills.
- Research based strategies on improving students' reading skills and classroom applications of the same.
- The importance of developing one's writing skills.
- Research based strategies on improving students' writing skills and classroom applications of the same.
- The importance of math in real life situations and the need for developing one's math skills.

ONLINE: Rubrics in Teaching and Learning

**Be consistent, yet quick,
in marking all student assignments.**

A rubric is much more than an assessment too. Provide quality formative and summative feedback for students at periodic intervals throughout the year by using consistency when grading student work.

Teachers use rubrics to grade a wide range of student work including: solo projects, group work, portfolios, homework assignments, book reviews, and tests.

ONLINE: Rubrics in Teaching and Learning

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction to Rubrics

- Exploring the purpose, significance and characteristics of rubrics in education.
- Identifying different types of rubrics.
- Learning to choose rubrics to match specific needs.

LESSON 2: Design and Implementation

- Stages in designing a rubric based on required criteria.
- Identifying the online resource required.
- Seeking feedback and teacher assessment of one's own rubric.

LESSON 3: Rubrics in Instruction

- Understanding how to use rubrics to enhance instructional effectiveness.
- Integrating rubrics into different subjects.
- Identifying and meeting diverse learning needs.

LESSON 4: Rubrics in Assessment

- Usefulness of assessment rubrics and description of its different elements.
- Role of teacher in developing and implementing assessment rubrics effectively.
- Assessment rubric based on Common Core Standard and teacher self-assessment rubric.

ONLINE: Spanish for Educators

"This online course was a good preview for having Spanish speaking students in the classroom and how to accommodate them."

– Don G.

A classroom is a place where all students must feel accepted and involved. Non-Spanish speaking teachers may need to make an extra effort to involve Spanish-speaking students in the classroom. Learning to communicate with students in their language is one way to generate involvement and help students to feel confident in the classroom.

This course, Spanish for Educators, is a primer for non-Spanish speaking teachers to help build communication with students and their families who speak Spanish as a first language. Teachers will be introduced to general vocabulary and phrases that assist with understanding the Spanish language in the classroom as well as throughout a school environment. The course is rich in activities, tools, strategies, and templates that may be customized for individual use (including a pronunciation guide for conferences with parents and telephone scripts). There are recordings with Spanish words, phrases, and conversations that enable teachers to read and pronounce Spanish words correctly so they can be understood.

ONLINE: Spanish for Educators

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Exploring the similarities and differences between English and Spanish, including word origins, grammar, pronunciation, and so on.
- Understanding and practicing the composition of the Spanish alphabets and the pronunciations for each.
- Learning sounds that, though eliminated from the alphabet, are still crucial to knowing the Spanish language.
- Examine the intricacies of Spanish syllables and cultural trends for names.

LESSON 2: Greetings

- Learning common Spanish greetings for situations teachers are likely to encounter, and the right occasion to use them.
- Effective ways to give instructions and appropriate responses.
- Typical cultural phrases to wish people well in different circumstances.

LESSON 3: Classroom Environment

- Using Spanish phrases, key words and comments successfully in the classroom to benefit students' behavior and overall responses.
- Identifying practical situations to practice the phrases learned outside the classroom.
- Exploring common mistakes native English speakers are likely to make while learning Spanish, and how to avoid making them.
- Gaining an overview of Spanish slang in order to minimize classroom disruptions.

LESSON 4: Parent Partnerships and Communications

- Learning how to use a 'call script' to speak to parents on the telephone, and situations where this is useful.
- Useful tips on how to prepare for conferences with parents.
- Quick question words to have on hand that could be useful while directing conversations outside the classroom.

ONLINE: Standards-based Instruction through STEM

"The practical examples, units plans, and research articles gave the class depth."

- Jennifer M.

STEM integration doesn't need a huge budget, lots of technology, or a ready-to-use curriculum. It's something any teacher, any school and any classroom can integrate. This course teaches you how.

We understand that no one knows your students better than you. Therefore, this course is designed to equip and encourage you to integrate STEM education into your classrooms in ways that you think are most suitable for your students. You will learn how to plan your classroom set-up keeping in mind the needs of your students. You will also become confident to design your own STEM curriculum, while integrating the standards, including standards.

STEM education is not just about doing what's "cool" and "in." It is essential in today's world that our students learn to apply what they learn in real life situations and across different subjects. The STEM model helps prepare our students for the 21st century.

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Basics of STEM

- Definition of STEM.
- Need for STEM.
- Three STEM program attributes and five different STEM program models.

LESSON 2: Setting Up for STEM

- Characteristics of STEM students and teachers.
- Understanding STEM in the context of Math and Science.
- Integrating STEM into any classroom.
- Choosing appropriate STEM material and curriculum.

LESSON 3: STEM Standards and Assessments

- Shared standards that are internationally benchmarked.
- Challenges and benefits of successful STEM assessments.
- Assessments for elementary, middle, and high school classrooms. Benefits, opportunities, and challenges of STEM integration.

LESSON 4: Designing STEM Curriculum PK-12

- Integrating STEM into elementary, middle, and high-school classrooms.
- Designing STEM instruction for the year.
- Writing individual STEM units using Science, Math, Technology, and Literacy standards.
- Implementing effective lessons in the classroom.

ONLINE: Student-centered Learning

"This course was a great reminder to put my students first, and had some good ideas for how to do it."

– Roberto L.

Teachers committed to real development in their students look forward to lively, stimulating and effective learning environments where their students are self-motivated, able to build on what they already know and equipped for the real-world.

The Student-centered Learning approach provides a fitting framework for building such an environment that shifts focus from the basic implementation of standardized curriculum and assignments, to a more creative, organic facilitation of subject content and student activity.

This course presents resources, research-validated strategies and practical examples to equip teachers with the necessary toolkit to seamlessly turn their classrooms into student-centered environments.

Some questions answered in this course include:

- Why is there a need for teachers and schools to change their approach to education?
- How does the Student-centered Learning approach compliment achieving standards?
- What is the teacher's role in this new learning environment?

This course also details principles of Student-centered Learning. It includes a comparison of teacher-led classrooms and student-centered classrooms, developing student-centered objectives, facets of understanding, practical teaching methods that can be used, and several online tools that will help achieve success.

ONLINE: Student-centered Learning

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction to Student-centered Learning

- Meaning, characteristics and principles of Student-centered Learning
- Comparison between teacher-led and student-centered approaches
- Dispelling myths regarding student-centered classrooms
- Student-Centered Learning and the standards

LESSON 2: Setting Objectives and Providing Feedback in the SCL Classroom

- Developing student-centered learning objectives
- Facets of understanding
- Staying on track through learning logs
- Assessment and feedback techniques

LESSON 3: SCL Strategies for the Classroom

- Understanding the teacher's role in a student-centered classroom
- Teaching and learning methods
- Ensuring student motivation
- Classroom strategies for integrating SCL techniques

LESSON 4: Setting up for Success

- Potential of technology in key areas of learning
- Tools that enhance learning in student-centered classrooms
- Getting parents involved in learning
- Extending learning opportunities outside of school hours

from https://ProfessionalLearningBoard.com

ONLINE: Student Portfolios

"I love the idea of having something for parents and students to look back on that represents their learning throughout the year."

– Holly W.

Successfully integrate portfolios to enhance students' development and become an essential part of teaching and learning. The practical tips and suggestions provided in this course will take teachers through the process of implementing portfolios in their classrooms, with factual information clearly linking student learning to the actual goal.

Teachers will be introduced to the concept of using portfolios as assessment tools, and the advantages of their implementation to both teachers and students. The resources included show teachers how to capitalize on the students natural tendency to save work, get them to take a second look and critically analyze how they can improve future work.

Questions answered in this course include – How do teachers take on the role of 'portfolio advisors', and guide students through the process of creating and maintain portfolios? What is the relevance of a portfolio? What are the objectives of an effective portfolio? Rich in examples, considerations, suggestions and tips for teachers, this course aims to enhance the teaching and learning experience for students.

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ONLINE: Student Portfolios

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Process and Benefits

- Research on student portfolios
- Portfolio benefits and their contribution to learning and development of 21st century skills
- Characteristics of the portfolio process
- Adding power to portfolios with parents as mentors
- Logistics and management of, both paper and digital, student portfolios

LESSON 2: Life Skills

- In-depth analysis of the types of student portfolios
- Primary stages of process, working and showcase portfolios, with practical examples
- Examining the role of teachers as 'portfolio advisors'
- Potential drawbacks of the portfolio process, and practical tips to overcome these
- Giving legitimacy to student portfolios by extending audience beyond the classroom

LESSON 3: Digital Portfolios

- Digital portfolios and their 21st century relevance
- Types of digital portfolios, and their practical implementation
- A systems approach to planning an impressive portfolio
- Examining the key aspects of effective implementation of digital portfolios in the classroom
- Web tools to help students create digital portfolios

LESSON 4: Portfolio Assessment

- Benefits of portfolio assessment, for both students and teachers
- Formative versus summative assessment of student work
- Brief overview of the assessment process, focus and criterion
- Implementing a scoring system with rubrics, presenting results
- Considerations for portfolio assessment

ONLINE: Substitute Teaching 101

This course is designed to train and introduce new substitute teachers to a range of topics and skills generally required for teaching in the classroom. Topic area sections covered include overviews of the following:

- Professionalism: Conduct, confidentiality, and legal responsibilities.

- Honoring diversity: Basic terminology and actions.

- Foundational classroom management techniques: Ways to control a classroom and diffusing conflict.

- Basic instructional strategies: Effective questioning, assessment methods, and lesson plans.

- Supporting students with special needs: Basic terminology of disorders, characteristics, and strategies.

- Working with at-risk youth: Learning traits, characteristics, and strategies.

ONLINE: Substitute Teaching 101

Course Outline

SECTION 1*: Professionalism*

LESSON: Appropriate Ethical Conduct

- Ethical Boundaries
- Types of Boundaries
- Communication
- Gifts and Concerns

LESSON: Legal Responsibilities

- Code of Ethics
- Ethics and the Law
- Vulnerability in Assessment
- Reporting

SECTION 2*: Honoring Diversity*

LESSON: Terminology in Diversity

- Culture
- Beliefs
- Values
- Behaviors

LESSON: Appropriate Actions

- How We Learn
- Social Relationships
- Teaching Styles
- Mindsets

ONLINE: Substitute Teaching 101

Course Outline

**SECTION 3*: Classroom Management*

LESSON: Managing a Classroom

- Classroom Management
- Incorporate Pedagogy
- Poor Practices

LESSON: Diffusing Conflict

- Verbal Conflict
- Witnessing Conflict
- Calming Procedures
- Resolving Incidents

**SECTION 4*: Instructional Strategies and Student Engagement*

LESSON: Assessment

- Evaluating Student Work
- Methods of Assessment
- Purpose of Assessment
- Tools of Evaluation

LESSON: Lesson Planning

- Preparing a Lesson Plan
- Outline Learning Objectives
- Presenting the Lesson Plan
- Reflecting on the Lesson Plan

LESSON: Effective Questioning

- Introduction to IBL
- IBL vs. Traditional Approach
- Characteristics of IBL
- What IBL Looks Like...

ONLINE: Substitute Teaching 101

Course Outline

SECTION 5: *Supporting Special Needs & At-Risk Students*

LESSON: Introduction to IEPs
- Common Terms
- IDEA
- IEP
- Section 504

LESSON: ADHD, ODD, Anxiety

- ADHD
- ODD and CD
- Anxiety

LESSON: Other Mental Health conditions

- OCD
- Schizophrenia
- Bipolar Disorder
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

LESSON: Autism

- Symptoms of Autism
- The Autism Spectrum
- Management
- The Brain in Autism

LESSON: Designing Accommodations

- Basics of Universal Design for Learning
- Addressing Diversity
- Concepts of UDL Framework
- Differentiated Instruction and UDL

LESSON: Developing Cognitive Skills

- Cognitive Skills
- Theories of Learning
- Assessing Skills
- Working Memory and Long-term Memory

ONLINE: Suicide Prevention

"It is so important for teachers to understand how to respond in times of crisis."

– Kathleen I.

This course looks at the important role teachers play and helps with ideas and strategies. The warning signs of suicide may help teachers recognize which students could be at risk for suicide. Discover ways in which teachers might collaborate with the school and the greater community to help create and maintain safer environments. This course integrates the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's research and materials in collaboration with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

ONLINE: Suicide Prevention

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Suicide - Myth and Truth
- Role of Mental Health
- Suicide Warning Signs
- Interventions & Treatments

LESSON 2: Resilience

- Adolescent Stressors
- Responsibility and Self-Esteem
- Social and Emotional Learning
- Connections and Relationships

LESSON 3: Helping Students at Risk

- Response Protocol
- Dealing with Suicide
- Healthy Response to Grief
- Non-Fatal Suicide Attempts

LESSON 4: Schools & Communities

- Need for School Involvement
- Suicide Prevention Programs
- Crisis Response Teams
- Family Partnerships

ONLINE: Tackling Tough Text

"This course provided information that can be used to help students improve their reading comprehension skills."

– Bonnie R.

Reading and comprehension are essential skills required for academic growth and professional excellence in all fields. These skills are also vital for smooth functioning in daily life. Developing one's students to be successful readers is an important goal for an educator.

Sometimes, students may find certain text tough to read and comprehend. This is true especially for nonfiction texts. Students may come across vocabulary, phrases and writing styles that they find difficult to read. As students progress to higher grades, they are exposed to reading material that is of a higher level of difficulty across all subjects. How can you help your students read and comprehend tough text, developing them into strong readers?

This course deals with practical strategies on tackling tough text, with a focus on the Reading Comprehension Checklist. This checklist, to be used with nonfiction texts, integrates research-based reading strategies and is found to be successful across all subject areas.

ONLINE: Tackling Tough Text

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Comprehension

- Understanding the importance of building students' self-efficacy to ensure learning.
- Exploring the need for appropriate background knowledge and reading strategies for successful student comprehension.
- Examining strategies for teaching reading comprehension.
- The need to go beyond traditional teaching models toward participatory literary practices.
- The Reading Comprehension Checklist – the research behind it and the practical highlights of the checklist.

LESSON 2: The Checklist

- Exploring the roadmap to activate students' background knowledge.
- Understanding essential steps while working with the checklist, to ensure an internalization of the reading comprehension process.
- Examining the value of pre-reading in making stronger readers, and the four steps involved.

LESSON 3: Working with Questions

- Understanding how to label and analyze questions that accompany the text.

LESSON 4a: Time to Read

- Beginning the final part of the checklist; the actual reading of the text.
- The process of identifying and underlining five key words in the text.
- Exploring the recommended sequence of answering questions.
- The importance of emphasizing students' self-confidence.

LESSON 4b: Evaluating the Checklist

- Exploring the practical aspects and benefits of using the checklist in the classroom.
- Using the evaluation in the checklist to identify areas where students need more help.
- Understanding the need for tough text levels and the significance of the checklist.

ONLINE: Teacher Coaching

*"This course was packed
with useful and clear information."*

- Laura D.

The growing need for professional development programs for teachers has caused many school administrators to look into the Peer Coaching model. This course takes a deeper look at a specific form of this model, known as Cognitive Coaching.

This course introduces teachers to the multiple facets of Cognitive Coaching, including its stages, roles and responsibilities of the participants, the tools, strategies, and states of mind that are necessary to this process of coaching. It explores how administrators can support and facilitate it and provides a practical understanding of how to set it up.

With the help of the templates, resources, and strategies, teachers can learn how to be effective coaches and to successfully implement the program in order to achieve their end goal, which is improving student learning and performance.

ONLINE: Teacher Coaching

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction to Cognitive Coaching

- Defining Cognitive Coaching and tracing its background and history.
- Understanding the assumptions and goals of Cognitive Coaching.
- Exploring the need for integrating Cognitive Coaching in one's school.

LESSON 2: Using Cognitive Coaching

- Identifying the three stages of the Cognitive Coaching process.
- Exploring the roles and responsibilities of the coach and coachee in the process of Cognitive Coaching.
- Identifying the information that is to be gathered and documented in each stage of the Cognitive Coaching process.

LESSON 3: Tools for Cognitive Coaching

- Identifying the five states of mind influencing teaching practice.
- Exploring strategies that can be used to enhance the states of mind through the process of Cognitive Coaching.
- Examining the tools that are used by coaches to aid the process of cognitive enhancement in coachees.

LESSON 4: Bringing Peer Coaching to your school

- Identifying tips for preparing teachers to be participants of the coaching process or to be coached.
- Learning how to assess one's skills as a coach and participating in coaching using technology.
- Setting up Cognitive Coaching in school and the role of administrators in this process.

ONLINE: Technology in the 21st Century Classroom

"I feel much more motivated to make sure my classroom is up to date in terms of technology."

– Claire K.

The internet, blogs and smart phones are examples of tools that we use to grow in our knowledge and understanding. Using technology in the classroom requires more than knowing how to use the tools. Teachers need to understand the role of technology in the learning process, and principles to integrate tech in a way that it promotes learning without it being a distraction.

This course teaches concepts and ideas behind using technology in the classroom. It also helps teachers to understand skills that students need to develop in order to use technology in the most effective way.

ONLINE: Technology in the 21ˢᵗ Century Classroom

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Overview

- The mindset behind using technology.
- How learning environments and education have changed with technology.
- Technology standards and essential conditions required for learning to take place while using technology.

LESSON 2: Tool Set

- Tools in the classroom including blogs, wikis, Skype, Twitter, Google docs and Google earth.
- Implementing a code of conduct.
- The need for parent education and learning to create a permission slip.
- Integrating technology into the curriculum.

LESSON 3: Skill Set

- The skill set required to succeed in the 21st century, and how these skills relate to technology.
- Technology to teach students to create, connect, communicate, collaborate and think critically.
- Digital learning farms.
- Roles students can take on while using technology in the classroom including tutorial designers, official scribes, researchers, collaboration coordinators, contributors to society and curriculum reviewers.

LESSON 4: Mind-set

- Digital literacies.
- Literacy including basic literacy, information literacy, media literacy, visual literacy, global literacy and network literacy.
- Ethical use of digital media.
- Digital footprints

"I got some creative ideas for improving my classroom on a low budget from this course!"

– Josh T.

How can teachers ensure that the quality of education is not compromised by their budget? Why is there a need for teachers to change their outlook and how can they make optimal use of what they have? How can STEM be implemented on a low budget?

Through the resources, research-validated strategies and suggestions presented in this course, teachers will be equipped to handle tight budgets, and be frugal in their classrooms by turning to alternative resources. Further, teachers will be provided practical tips that will allow them to adopt methods to make the most of what they already have, end up saving money and still have the needed supplies to provide a quality education.

Rich in examples, scenarios, suggestions and tips, this course will help teachers learn valuable life skills to enrich their own learning environment.

ONLINE: Thrifty Classroom

Course Outline

LESSON 1: A Thrifty Classroom and a Thriving Learning Environment

- Recognizing the challenges of maintaining the quality of instruction at the school level.
- Importance of meeting standards in education.
- A look at the critical elements necessary to effectively leverage technology for learning.
- Understanding the need to change teaching approaches within limited budgets.
- Recognizing the need to learn financial management and being creative in locating alternative resources.

LESSON 2: Making the Most of What You Have

- Learning to make optimal use of available resources.
- Understanding the need to change your outlook and make optimal use of what you have.
- A look at useful, inexpensive and ingenious tips for a no-budget dream classroom.
- Identifying and implementing projects to redecorate and refurnish the classroom.
- Understanding and implementing the 3Rs of minimal waste: recycle, reuse and reduce.

LESSON 3: Thrifty Classroom Supplies

- Tips for connecting with parents and community members for donations.
- Using interpersonal skills to connect with organizations that give donations or low-cost supplies.
- Identifying government agencies, nonprofit organizations and local businesses that give free student supplies.
- Networking with teachers, parents and alumni.
- Identifying online sources for donations and discounts.
- Maximizing limited technology to save costs.

LESSON 4: Thrifty Learning Projects

- Learning to integrate low-cost field trips and utilize virtual tours.
- Incorporating the use of local materials for classroom learning.
- Understanding the importance of integrating STEM education into schools.
- Understanding the importance of collaborating with other teachers for supplies and teaching aids.
- Finding ways to involve the community in enriching student learning at little to no cost.

ONLINE: Transformative Classroom Management

"The content was very deep – explores root issues in a classroom."

– Shayla V.

What makes a teacher successful in one school is the same thing that makes a teacher successful in the next school. It is true that all students are unique and group dynamics, cultural backgrounds, and experiences vary — sometimes dramatically. But for the most part, sound ideas get positive results and unsound ideas get mixed results at best.

Not all ideas sold in the marketplace of classroom management strategies lead to desirable results. In fact, many of the most popular ideas result in more harm than good. For that reason, parts of this course are devoted to explaining why many of the most popular ideas in use today are flawed, and what to do instead.

This course is a synthesis of what's effective in the area of classroom management. It builds on extensive time, real experiences of teachers, observations of hundreds of classrooms, research and the best ideas put into successful practice.

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Course Outline

LESSON 1: Classroom Management

- Identifying common attributes in transformative classrooms that instill essential skills for student success.
- Examining attitudes and pedagogical choices that promote effective classroom management.
- Analyzing popular but ineffective strategies that promote classroom dysfunction.

LESSON 2: Classroom Expectations

- Importance of laying out clear and shared expectations in the classroom.
- Examining intentional classroom management strategies to identify the nature and outcomes of each.
- Understanding the need for consistent implementation and positive expectations for long-term benefits.

LESSON 3: Technical Management

- The need for teachers to be experts at technical classroom management strategies.
- Identifying the essential principles behind a focused vision and classroom culture.
- Understanding the nature of student attention and strategies to secure it.

LESSON 4: Student Motivation

- Exploring the distinctions between intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, and the need to develop the former.
- Laying out strategies to develop each type of motivation and their limitations.
- Understanding the nature and role of external rewards like grades and incentives.
- Examining the basic needs fulfilled by internal rewards and ways to reinforce them.

ONLINE: Trauma Sensitive Teaching

The Trauma Sensitive Teaching course enables educators to become more attuned to the signs of trauma that impede student learning. Integrating trauma sensitive teaching methodologies create a learning environment that is conducive to the academic development of all students.

Through this course, educators will learn about the ways in which trauma impacts learning behaviors, and the strategies they can adopt to help students regulate their emotions, build resilience, and thrive both within and beyond the classroom. Packed with innumerable tips, strategies, and real-life examples for teachers who wish to master the art of trauma sensitive teaching, this course is an incredible resource for teachers everywhere.

ONLINE: Trauma Sensitive Teaching

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Understanding Trauma

- What is Trauma?
- Signs and Executive functioning of Trauma
- Teaching Methodologies
- Trauma and Resilience

LESSON 2: Building Resilience

- What is Resilience?
- Identify and Label Emotions
- Nurturing competence and Tone of voice
- Promoting Self-Advocacy and Problem-Solving

LESSON 3: Trauma-induced Anxiety

- Types of Anxiety
- Relationship Building
- Resolving Conflicts
- Fostering Self-Efficacy

LESSON 4: Creating Trauma-supportive Classrooms

- Physical Organization and Psychological Culture
- Consistency and Predictability
- Behavior Strategies
- Homework, Test and Social Anxiety

ONLINE: Understanding ADHD

"I have been teaching for 13 years. After taking this class, I feel much more equipped to meet the needs of students with ADHD."

– Donna H.

Have you ever come across a child who's always on the move? They might have had ADHD. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity disorder or ADHD is seen commonly in today's classroom. Children with this condition are restless, find it difficult to sit, are very impulsive and have a very short attention span. On the other hand they are also very intelligent and creative.

These energetic students can often disrupt a classroom. Thus, it becomes even more important for teachers to understand what this condition is all about and learn strategies to teach a child with ADHD.

This course does just that for you. It provides a variety of tips, adaptations and strategies that you can use while working in the classroom. You will learn about classroom modifications and adaptations that will help maintain order in the classroom. You will also discover methods for communicating more clearly with special educators and parents about their children. This course helps teachers gain confidence in not only handling ADHD, but also other students who are energetic, hyperactive or have difficulty paying attention.

ONLINE: Understanding ADHD

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Definition of and challenges in ADHD.
- Causes of ADHD.
- Strengths of students with ADHD.
- Prognosis and treatment of ADHD.

LESSON 2: Core Issues in ADHD

- The brain in ADHD and how the changes in the brain cause deficits.
- Challenges in ADHD and strategies that may be used to overcome these, especially in the areas of attention, hyperactivity and impulsivity.
- Strategies that are useful in working with students with ADHD including instruction sheets, classroom seating, movement breaks and rules.
- Dealing with anger and addictive behavior in students with ADHD.

LESSON 3: Associated Issues in ADHD

- Issues seen in ADHD including issues in organization, motivation and social skills.
- How teachers may help students to organize their schoolwork and complete it.
- How students with ADHD may be motivated.
- How students with ADHD may be supported so that they build positive friendships in the classroom.

LESSON 4: Accommodations

- Classroom accommodations that can help a student with ADHD to learn and perform well.
- Modified seating and lighting.
- How a classroom schedule and organization can support learning.
- Adapting homework, visual aids and assessments in order to help a child with ADHD cope with the curriculum.

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ONLINE: Videos in the Classroom

"This is a great program!"

- Mindy W.

Every teacher wants students to be enthusiastic about learning. Sometimes it is a challenge to capture students' interest as the topic may be complex or difficult to understand. Videos can do wonders to pique students' interest and engagement.

Students retain information faster, grasp concepts more rapidly, and become more enthusiastic about learning when videos are used in the classroom. This course encourages teachers to use of videos already available online and learn to record, edit, create, embed and share videos.

The course presents guidelines and practical tips on choosing the right videos to align with learning objectives. With the templates and real-life examples provided in this course, teachers find it easy to connect complex lessons to real-life scenarios. Resources help teachers to conduct post-viewing activities that ensure videos are not just the 'interesting' part of the lesson, but are used as a tool to enhance learning and reflection.
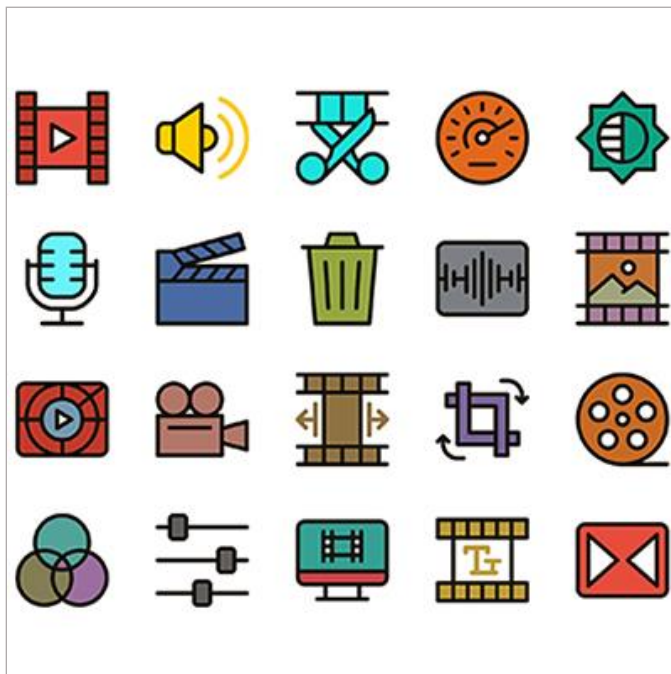
ONLINE: Videos in the Classroom

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Role of Videos in Education

- Research regarding role of videos in education
- Theoretical basis for introducing videos
- Impact of videos
- The elements, process, and implications of a Flipped Classroom
- Teaching Approaches and how they incorporate videos

LESSON 2: Effective Use of Available Videos

- Types of videos
- Finding the appropriate video
- Video resources on the internet
- You Tube in the Classroom

LESSON 3: Creating Videos

- Teacher-created videos and their benefits
- Storyboarding
- Screencasting and Camera Recording
- Editing, Uploading, and Sharing videos
- Embedding videos
- Student-created videos and their benefits

LESSON 4: Considerations for Classroom Use

- Different ways of using videos in the classroom
- Considerations for video presentation
- Presenting effective video content
- Guidelines for choosing content
- Post-viewing activities for elementary, middle and high schools
- Teacher reflection and effective feedback
- Copyright considerations

ONLINE: Virtual Field Trips

"This is such a fun learning opportunity to introduce to my class!"

– Karen P.

Field trips help students make connections between classroom learning and the world. However, they aren't always practical due to budget constraints, safety concerns or learning needs.

Virtual field trips are an effective alternative to traditional field trips because of accessibility, ease and interactivity. They are cost-effective, safe to use and break down geographical and learning barriers. Virtual field trips work well for all types of classrooms. In this course, teacher discover innumerable tips and resources, can plan, create and customize virtual trips to cater to their students' needs. Take classroom learning beyond the confines of the classroom.

ONLINE: Virtual Field Trips

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction to Virtual Field Trips

- Characteristics
- Opportunities
- Applicability

LESSON 2: VFT Resources

- Pre-designed VFTs
- Resources to Design VFTs
- Maximizing Learning

LESSON 3: Planning a Virtual Field Trip

- Considerations
- Types of Virtual Field Trips

LESSON 4: Conducting a VFT

- Setting the stage and Goal
- Student Participation and Post-VFT Follow-up
- Drawing Connections and Real-World Implications
- Reporting and Evaluating the VFT

ONLINE: Visuals in Learning

"This is a FABULOUS learning tool!"

- Carla R.

Understanding and using visual materials is an important life skill and advantageous for students. We have come to a point where visuals are at par with words in daily communication.

Schools must take seriously the task of teaching students to decipher, as well as create, visuals. Visual tools make useful teaching aids in the classroom whether they are technology-rich or technology-free.

Examples in this course help teachers see how to incorporate visual instruction into lessons, and prepare and present visual teaching aids and assessments for all students.

ONLINE: Visuals in Learning

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Visual Learning and Visual Literacy

- Theory of multiple intelligences.
- Visual Learners - Characteristics, challenges.
- Visual Literacy - importance, teaching and competency standards.

LESSON 2: Non-Tech Visual Aids

- Effective visual aids.
- Types of visual aids.
- Classroom examples.

LESSON 3: Technology-related Visual Aids

- Preparing and use visual aids.
- Improving the effectiveness of presentations.
- Teaching students to produce technology based visual aids.

LESSON 4: Visual Literacy and Learning Strategies

- Visual learning strategies to think, analyze, remember and recall information effectively.
- Visual literacy strategies to translate text into images, and vice versa.
- Assessment strategies.

ONLINE: Writing and Dyslexia: Overcoming Challenges

Reading and writing are crucial aspects of student learning and critical life skills. Teaching students to read and write can be layered and challenging, especially since individual learners require teachers to adapt a range of teaching methodologies and approaches.

This course explores how writing challenges in the classroom may show up including learning conditions (like but not limited to Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, and Dyspraxia) that may make it difficult for children to read and write, and a variety of teaching and evaluation strategies that can help all children— regardless of their level—to become competent readers and writers. An incredibly useful resource for teachers everywhere, the Writing and Dyslexia: Overcoming Challenges course is an invaluable tool for mastery of the art, craft, and nitty-gritty of writing.

Course Outline

Lesson 1: Writing Challenges

- The Importance of Writing
- Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Dyspraxia: Symptoms and Diagnosis
- Decoding and Encoding Challenges
- Handwriting and Other Writing Challenges

Lesson 2: Transcription Challenges

- Spelling
- Morphology
- Phonics
- Keyboarding

Lesson 3: Cognitive Functions in Writing

- Writing Challenges
- Memory, Attention and Concentration
- Sequencing, Planning and Organization
- Strategies to Improve Writing

Lesson 4: Sharpening Writing Skills

- Pre-writing
- Initial Draft
- Revising
- Assessment