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Abstract

Education in the 21st century highlights globalization and internationalization. Teachers in the 21st century are technology savvy. To effectively engage and teach to new generation students, teachers will help the educational system meet this requirement. The educational systems must be outfitted with a pre requisite of ICT resources both hardware and software, and curricula must be designed to promote a collaborative learner centered environment to which students will relate and respond.



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Introduction

“Today’s digital kids think of ICT as some thing akin to oxygen; they expect it, it’s what they breathe and it’s how they live.” – John Seely Brown

Today’s classroom is a very different place than it was fifteen or even five years ago. Teachers are faced with larger, more diverse classrooms during a time when teacher accountability is mandated as a result of the No Child Left Behind legislation. The ability to understand and respond appropriately to students cultural, racial, economic, social and learning differences will become increasingly important to effective teaching practices. Many educators find themselves frustrated and wonder how they can measurably increase student motivation and academic performance, while at the same time manage their classrooms effectively and cultivate the students desire to embrace a life time of learning.

The Framework for 21st Century Learning suggest that schools today should focus on more than the basics to integrate 21st century themes such as Global Awareness, Financial, Economic, Business, Health, and Entrepreneurial Literacy.

Characteristics of a 21st-century teacher:

1. Learner-Centered Classroom and Personalized Instructions

2. Students as Producers

3. Learn New Technologies

4. Teachers have to think globally

5. Be Smart and Use Smart Phones

6. Blog

I have written on the importance of both student and teacher blogging. Even my beginners of English could see the value of writing for real audience and establishing their digital presence.

7. Go Digital

8. Collaborate

Technology allows collaboration between teachers & students. Creating digital resources, presentations, and projects together with other educators and students will make classroom activities resemble the real world.

9. Use Twitter Chat10. Connect11. Project-Based Learning12. Build Your Positive Digital Footprint

13. Code

While this one might sound complicated, coding is nothing but today's literacy. As a pencil or pen were "the tools" of the 21th-century, making it impossible to picture a teacher not capable to operate with it, today's teacher must be able to operate with today's pen and pencil, i.e., computers. Coding is very interesting to learn -- the feeling of writing a page with HTML is amazing! Even though I have ways to go, just like in every other field, a step at a time can take go a long way. Again, lynda.com is a great resource to start with!

14. Innovate

The main aim behind any innovation in technology is to provide comfort, productivity and better life. Teacher have to expand teaching toolbox and try new applications example replacing textbooks with web resources, teaching with social media. Students love using Facebook for class discussions & announcements. They appreciate new knowledge not new tools. They love new, more interesting & productive ways of using new applications.

15. Keep Learning

As new ways and new technology keep emerging, learning and adapting is essential. The good news is: it's fun, and even 20 min a day will take you a long way!

Challenges for the 21st century Teachers

- Education system has entered the market as a commodity, to priced, marketed and sold to willing buyers.
- Increasing rate of privatization of education sectors
- Rise in international institutions
- Quality and standard of professional education
- Diversified student population coming from different socio-economic background
- Vast gaps in standards of schools and colleges at the cities and villages and at private and public sector
- Examination system
- Globalization
- Growth of technology
- Application of technology in variety of ways
- Changes of Economy

21st Century Classroom

This scenario also provides a view into the teaching modality of the modern 21st Century Classroom. It is an example of an interactive learning community; a place where the learning is taking place in an organic and interactive way, where students are engaged and have a voice in the learning process. The students of the 21st Century are vastly different than any other generation of students. They have been raised in a digital age. Today's students do not know of a world without cell phones, the Internet, and cable TV. They are digitally connected to more people throughout the world than any other group of students before them

Characteristics of the 21st Century Classroom

- Integrating technology into the classroom
- The Physical Environment Is Invitational
- Students Understand the Rules and Procedures They Are Expected to Follow
- Students Are Actively Engaged in the Pursuit of Knowledge
- There Is a Persistent Tone of Mutual Respect
- Students Take Responsibility for Their Learning
- Transitioning From Teacher To Facilitator

- Student-centric
- The Necessity Of Computers
- Hands-On Learning
- Opportunities For Creative Expression
- Fostering Collaborative Environments
- Flexible learning environment
- Furniture for Utility
- A Light-Filled Environment

Conclusion: If students are to be productive members of the 21st Century workplace, they must move beyond the skills of the 20th Century and master those of the 21st Century. Teachers are entrusted with mastering these skills as well and with modelling these skills in the classroom. The characteristics of the 21st Century classroom will be very different from those of in the classrooms of the past because the focus is on producing students who are highly productive, effective communicators, inventive thinkers, and masters of technology.

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