

Supporting Student Growth with Technology

Instructional Technology Module Eight

Course Description

Effective technology use in schools can engage, motivate, and inspire learners to achieve in and out of the classroom. This professional development module will identify best practices for teaching with technology as well as examine how student technology use may serve as a catalyst for academic and personal growth. Special attention will be paid to urban learning environments.

Competencies

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to

- Examine best practices for teaching with technology
- Develop engaging, technology-based lessons for urban learners
- Support student growth with technology integration

Materials

All materials are accessed via the [CaseNEX website](#) using the PIN provided and the user name/password you create.

All readings listed can be found by going to *Class Materials*→*Virtual Library*→*Readings (Search)*.

If you do not have the most recent versions of the following software, please download each from the given sites.

- [Windows Media Player](#)
- [RealPlayer](#)
- [Adobe Reader](#)

Cases Used

- New Year, New Opportunities: School of the Future Students

Course Schedule

Find session dates by selecting *Syllabus* on the top menu bar. For typical courses, final Discussions, Journals, and Workbooks are due by

Saturday at midnight unless otherwise noted. Please see the News Flash for any alterations of the course schedule posted by your instructor.

Introductory Session

Exploring the CaseNEX Site

Complete these tasks prior to the beginning of Session 1.

Readings

Read the course requirements, paying special attention to the Case-Analysis and Workbook Assignment Rubrics. They will be used by your instructor throughout the course to evaluate assignments where appropriate.

Discussion

Post one entry introducing yourself to your classmates. Describe your interest in and/or experiences with using technology as a teaching tool. (100 words or fewer)

Journal

What are ways you use technology to engage, motivate, and inspire your students? What steps do teachers need to take in order to make this goal a reality? (100 words or fewer)

Note

Use CaseMail to send a note to your instructor stating that you will be taking this course. To do so, click on CaseMail on the top menu bar and then 'Click here to create a new message.' Use the marked link to look up an address. Continue linking down until you see the class list. Select the instructor's name and then compose your message and hit 'Post Message.'

Session 1

Fostering an Innovative Learning Environment

Case

New Year, New Opportunities

Readings

- Using Technology to Enhance Engaged Learning for At-Risk Students
- Using Technology in Teaching and Learning: Resources to Help You Navigate a Digital World
- Microsoft Lesson Plans for Students and Educators

Discussion

Select a lesson plan from the “Microsoft Lesson Plans for Students and Educators” and identify the ways technology is used in the plan. Considering the **perspectives** of both Ryan and Quasan, specifically explain what aspects of that plan might increase engagement for learners unmotivated by traditional teaching methods. Describe actions you might take with your students to address similar **issues**.

Journal

The article “Using Technology to Enhance Engaged Learning for At-Risk Students” states: “When computers are present in schools serving at-risk students, they usually are used for drill-and-practice programs on basic skills rather than as tools to support students in designing their own projects.” Assess the validity of this statement from your own experiences, using specific evidence to defend your points. Next, engage with others about **issues** that may arise when integrating technology into lessons for students who may be categorized as “at-risk.” Finally, discuss potential short and long-term **consequences** of appropriate technology use.

Session 2

Promoting Socio-Emotional Growth

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New Year, New Opportunities: School of the Future Students

Readings

- Working Toward Student Self-Direction and Personal Efficacy as Educational Goals
- Effects of Technology on Students and Teachers
- Focus on Technology and Assessment

Discussion

Using the students' own reflections, describe how Quasan and Ryan have been affected by their experiences at the School of the Future and how their experiences have influenced their academic and social growth. What additional **knowledge** (in the form of assessment data, teacher reports, background information, etc.) would you like to know about these students? Make a prediction about how the school's focus on technology might impact their emerging leadership qualities.

Journal

The reading "Working Toward Student Self-Direction and Personal Efficacy as Educational Goals" discusses in great detail the importance of allowing students to make decisions about their own learning and giving opportunities in class for metacognition and personal meaning-making. What **issues** arise for teachers who attempt to adhere to this constructivist philosophy? What role might technology play in promoting student self-direction and personal efficacy? How has technology promoted students growth in your school setting?