

Six Steps to Learning Success

01.

Consider Your Mindset

The first step in using blended learning to empower students is to think about the value you bring as an educator. The way you view yourself has a deep impact on your learners' experiences, as well as your own.

Example: Ask yourself, "Which are the most valuable roles I can play in the classroom? Designer of learning experiences, information disseminator, or facilitator?" Ultimately, a teacher's true value lies in the ability to connect with students and respond to their individual needs.

My Plan

02.

Think About How You Teach

To help students take charge of their learning, you'll need to assess the way you currently teach. Take note of when you stand in front of the class providing explanations and when you need to give more guidance. Look for small ways to incorporate blended learning into your teaching.

Example: Instead of explaining concepts in a whole group setting, create videos that students can access on their own, giving them choice over pace and place. For more complex concepts, create small-group, differentiated, teacher-led experiences.

My Plan

03.

Position Students as Builders of Meaning

Students should be doing the hard work of finding meaning in learning, not teachers. Look for ways students can become active participants—from setting goals and tracking progress to assessing their work and reflecting on their learning.

Example: To help students share responsibility for their learning, change the focus and control from teacher to learner. Don't ask: "How can I get my students to do X?" Instead, ask: "How can my students do X?"

My Plan

04.

Find Balance in Learning Experiences

Balanced learning experiences encourage students to share responsibility for their learning while enabling teachers to focus on meaningful work. You should strive for balance in voice, feedback, pace, choice, and assessment.

Example: Ensure your learning experiences balance teacher and student voice, online and offline learning activities, individual and collaborative tasks, practice and creative tasks, teacher and peer feedback, teacher and student control of pace, teacher-directed and learner choice, and teacher and self-assessment.

My Plan

05.

Create Accessible, Inclusive, Equitable Experiences

Because every student follows a unique path to reach their learning goals, teachers must proactively identify and remove any barriers they might encounter along the way. Provide multiple pathways to demonstrate learning that meets individual student needs.

Example: Station rotations can break down barriers to learning by giving students choice over content and process. Students can choose to read and annotate online using an audio track, or complete the activity independently offline. They might also choose to practice grammar on their own or with a peer.

My Plan

06.

Conduct More Meaningful Assessments

Blended learning models can provide the time and space needed to conduct more meaningful assessments. In-classroom assessments give teachers the opportunity to connect with students as they're assessed and save teachers valuable time outside the classroom.

Example: Station rotation and playlist models can facilitate in-classroom assessments. For example, if students are working on an essay, you can dedicate one station each day to providing real-time feedback as students write using Google Docs or another online tool. To assess formal assignments, have your class work through a playlist or choice board as you conduct side-by-side assessments with students to discuss rubrics and scores.

My Plan

This planner has been developed by Dr. Catlin Tucker in partnership with McGraw Hill.

About Dr. Catlin Tucker

Dr. Catlin R. Tucker is a best-selling author, keynote speaker, international trainer, and professor in the Masters in the Arts of Teaching Program at Pepperdine University. She taught for 16 years in Sonoma County, where she was named Teacher of the Year in 2010.

About Our Partnership

Dr. Tucker is collaborating with McGraw Hill to offer comprehensive and impactful professional development opportunities. These programs provide educators with the knowledge and skills needed to develop and implement blended learning strategies and techniques that foster individualized learning experiences and accelerate student progress. Co-designed by Dr. Tucker, these professionally curated learning sessions will be available in the Spring of 2024.