

Brick and Mortar vs. Virtual Online: What Is Our Future in Education?

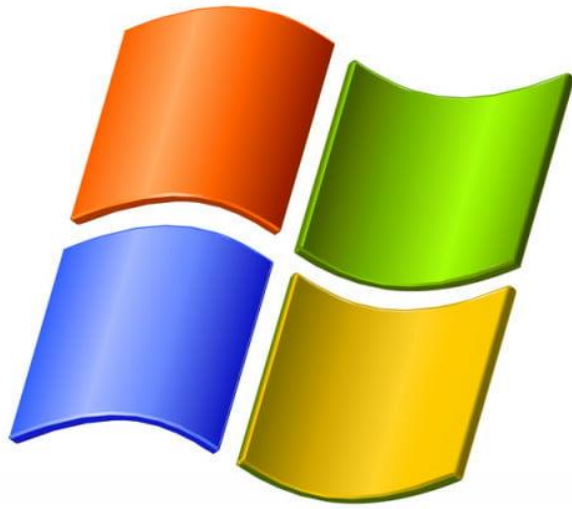
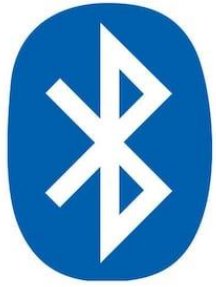
SCOTT RHYMER

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY-HIGH SCHOOLS

GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.



twitter

What is Twitter?



Twitter is a service for friends, family, and co-workers to communicate and stay connected through quick, frequent answers to one simple question: what are you doing?





< Messages (409) Mike Details

PlESE
Don't talk to fans before show.
Thank you

Please come in venue.

Today 6:16 PM

Please do not stay with fans
outside the venue. It is rude to
the people on stage

They're my friends not fans they
don't have tickets

Then they shouldn't meet you.
The tour needs people to buy
tickets not for free meet n
grets

I'm selling plenty of tickets the
only people that aren't buying
can't afford them in any way

Delivered

Don't care then they don't meet
you.

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Now imagine someone like me standing before SCPTSA 18 years ago and trying to explain what a classroom for their rising Senior would look like in the year 2018!

Trying to 100% accurately predict what school will look like in 12 years for students entering K-5 next year is about as easy to do as predicting 12 years ago we would all have Iphone

IMPOSSIBLE!

What could it look like?

Personalization

Today's learners are digital natives. Future educators will have to face the fact that students will need (and want) to learn in a flexible, personalized format — for some, this may mean having a more technology-focused classroom. Students will want their learning experience to meet their interests, time constraints and academic needs.

Diverse time and place: Students will have more opportunities to learn at different times in different places. eLearning tools facilitate opportunities for remote, self-paced learning.

Classrooms will be flipped, which means the theoretical part is learned outside the classroom, whereas the practical part shall be taught face to face, interactively.

More individualized instruction with much of the delivery being electronic.

What could it look like?

Student Ownership

In addition to personalization, students want to have a greater voice in their education instead of simply listening to a lecture. Since higher levels of thinking and learning require more student ownership, education will become more project based — a pivotal theme moving forward. Schools will need to allow students to choose what they learn, how they learn and what projects they participate in.

Students will become more and more involved in forming their curricula. Maintaining a curriculum that is contemporary, up-to-date and useful is only realistic when professionals as well as 'youngsters' are involved. Critical input from students on the content and durability of their courses is a must for an all-embracing study program.

What could it look like?

Improved Curricula

Contrary to the old-school traditions housed in English, math, social studies and science, we'll need to redesign curricula and courses to reflect the skills mandated by emerging economies and technologies. Skills such as coding, design, sustainability and financial literacy — to name a few — will have to be integrated and taught in classroom curricula.

Though mathematics is considered one of three literacies, it is without a doubt that the manual part of this literacy will become irrelevant in the near future. Computers will soon take care of every statistical analysis, and describe and analyze data and predict future trends. Therefore, the human interpretation of these data will become a much more important part of the future curricula.

Better Career and Technical education courses that provide certification necessary to enter the workforce.

What could it look like?

Innovative Learning Spaces and Environments

Schools will need to rethink the classroom learning environment to better suit students' needs, including building design. The environment should be conducive to innovative and creative learning. An important question to ask is: Where do people go to get their creative juices flowing? For example, coffee shops are common spaces that groups go to meet up for creative projects or test prep.

Modified days and schedules?

What could it look like?

Interconnectivity

In 20 years, students will expect more of a mentoring relationship from their teachers, which is not the norm in schools today. Since more students will be learning and gathering information without attending school in person, future teachers will have to embrace various ways of staying connected and engaging with their students via social media, online communities, Google Hangouts, Twitter Chats and more to stay connected with students.

Teachers becoming more in the role of “learning managers.”

Students will also engage with other students, teachers, and professionals digitally that could cross boundaries of where you live being where you go to “school”.

What could it look like?

Real-World Application Plus Project-Based Learning (PBL)

Schools will have to offer more ways for students to gain real-world experience that is applicable to their future careers. Schools should provide opportunities for students to intern at companies, mentor marginalized youth or collaborate in large groups, for example. Rather than limiting students inside a classroom, schools can create more opportunities for students to gain useful technical skills through real-world application.

As careers are adapting to the future freelance economy, students of today will adapt to project based learning and working. This is when organizational, collaborative, and time management skills can be taught as basics that every student can use in their further academic careers.

What could it look like?

Technology

Many schools now have one-to-one devices or are heading in that direction. Our future challenge relates to students using technology — if we look at technology as just a better tool to administer and grade tests, then we'll have missed the boat. For example, a science class may cover 3D printing and how it can be used to replicate prosthetic limbs to change someone's life.

Students will learn with study tools that adapt to the capabilities of a student. This means above average students shall be challenged with harder tasks and questions when a certain level is achieved.

Students who experience difficulties with a subject will get the opportunity to practice more until they reach the required level. Students will be positively reinforced during their individual learning processes. This can result in to positive learning experiences and will diminish the amount of students losing confidence about their academic abilities. Furthermore, teachers will be able to see clearly which students need help in which areas.

What Should We Do?

Be flexible

Embrace the idea of teacher as facilitator

Embrace the idea of modified schedules for students

Embrace the idea of moving towards mastery and self-paced

Embrace the idea that school designs can be collaborative workspaces and not structured classrooms

Embrace the idea that no technological initiative will last more than 3-5 years

Embrace the idea of building soft skills

If we can't do these things, there are ways in which students can receive their education without us!

Sources

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