

Blended Learning Proposal

Executive Director of Curriculum Instruction,

It's no secret that the most recent pandemic has resulted in significant declines in education. The learning gaps are more significant, and as a result much more difficult to close. These gaps, however, didn't become an issue simply because of the pandemic. In fact they were an issue before, which is why differentiation has been a heavy push for quite a while. Horn(2015) stated that true differentiation in today's class sizes is a difficult task to accomplish. As a current teacher in today's classroom, I'd have to agree, especially considering a number of other variables. It is known that the rate and way in which humans learn varies based on each individual. A common phrase said to many new parents during their child's first year of life is "It'll happen when they're ready". Does this only apply to infants and toddlers as they learn to walk and talk? Is differentiation in the traditional classroom setting viable for one teacher trying to cater to 20+ students? Should a teacher direct their focus on the struggling students; leaving our students currently on or above grade level bored. Should we focus on advancing and challenging our higher students; hoping the strugglers will improve with a 20 minute guided reading or math session a day? I remember being told, as a new teacher, that our focus should be on the students that are borderline. They'll be easier to get over that hump into passing; leaving the impression that the students performing well below grade level were hopeless.

I am proposing the implementation of a blended learning environment that removes whole group teaching and strict time constraints. Instead students receive instruction in a variety of ways, including: small group instruction, project based learning, technology instruction, and independent practice. Students will get to view, learn, and practice each topic in a variety of ways giving way to mastery. In addition the more flexible time will allow students to learn at a

pace more personalized for them. This will allow students to continue forward with their learning or continue at a slightly slower pace giving students a personalized time frame for them to reach mastery. Horn (2015) stated that blended learning gives students the ability to learn at a pace that is appropriate for their abilities. It gives students a chance to take their own journeys to the same location with the ability to decide if they'd like to change routes and get there faster or if they need to take a longer route for more time. What's more is that teachers will gain the autonomy to impact students in more impactful ways (Horn 2015).

Thank you for your consideration,

Amburh Richard