

Blended Learning

Krista Scott
Instructional Technology Specialist
Frenship ISD

What is blended learning?

- Using various modes of delivery to teach a concept
- Utilizing the best mode of delivery for each concept
- Understanding the needs of your students to facilitate self-directed, and at times, self-paced learning



e-TQM College Blended Learning Approach

Blended Learning in Your Classroom

4 Ways to Increase:

1. Virtual Classroom (LMS)
2. Wikis
3. Blogs
4. Interactive Classroom Websites

Virtual Classroom



What is a virtual classroom?

- Learning Management System
 - Automates classroom instruction
 - Examples: Moodle, Blackboard, WebCT
- Moodle
 - Becoming very popular
 - Open source program
 - Requires networking equipment



Benefits of Virtual Classroom

- Students can access assignments, notes and other information from school and home.
- Students receive instant feedback on quizzes and tests.
- Go green! – Less waste of paper and time.
 - Uploaded documents and assignments can be viewed at anytime.
 - Instant grading and less printing.
- Gives students a voice!
 - Students that are typically reserved in the classroom will have a voice in discussion forums and other interactions.

Utilize the Virtual Classroom

- Quizzes/Tests
- Discussion Forums
- Wikis
- Journals
- Assignments
- Notes
- Important Links



Wikis



What is a wiki?

- “Website that uses wiki software, allowing the easy creation and editing of any number of interlinked Web pages”
 - www.wikipedia.com
- Collaborative and interactive



Benefits of a Wiki

- Allows students to collaborate and work on project jointly but at different times.
- Great source of information for students, parents, and others.
- Awesome learning tool!
- Forces students to focus on important information, spelling, format, and other important skills.

Wiki in the Classroom

- Ways to use wikis in the classroom:
 - Class projects
 - Information for parents and students for instant access
 - Professional learning
 - Sharing knowledge and/or creative works of students and teacher
 - Giving students a worldwide audience

Wikis!!!

- <http://kristastechtidbits.pbworks.com/>
 - Best one ever!
 - Still growing! Check back often!
- <http://kchichester.pbworks.com/>
 - Professional learning example for Twitter.
- <http://cgay.pbworks.com/>
 - Science Wiki
- <http://tbycomputers.pbworks.com/>
 - Computer Class Wiki

Blogs





What is a blog?

- An online diary; a personal chronological log of thoughts published on a Web page
- Shortened version of web log
 - www.dictionary.com

Blogging in the Classroom

- Student Literacy
 - Wider audience
 - Materials “published” for parents, peers, and others to review
 - Proper grammar and spelling reinforced
 - Opens discussion on various topics
 - Opportunity to work on writing and reading skills

Blogging in the Classroom

- Student Interaction
 - All students have a voice
 - Dialog on novels, classroom hot topics, or current events
 - Collaboration on student projects
- Student Creativity
 - Students can express their thoughts, ideas and visions to a vast audience

Blogging in the Classroom

- Lesson Ideas
 - Classroom Project—Students blog each day about the progress they make on class project.
 - Novel—Summarize or express thoughts on portions of a novel covered in class.
 - Science Experiment—Discuss the progress of an experiment. Get other students' feedback.
 - Math Equations—Explain how to solve a real life math problem. Ask for help when stumped.
 - Design—Post a design, explain the reasoning for the design, and seek input from peers.

Blogging Professionally

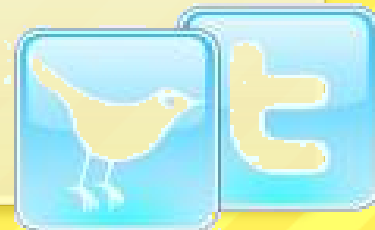
- Reasons to have a professional blog:
 - Share tips and tricks with other professionals
 - Post and seek feedback on a variety of topics
 - Express creativity and ideas within your area of expertise
 - Reflect on recently explored topics
 - Just for fun!

Blogging Professionally

- Getting started:
 1. Register an account
 - Edublogs—My favorite for professional blog.
 - Free
 - Pay minimal amount for extended services
 - Gaggle
 - Class Blogmeister
 - Wordpress
 - Blogger
 2. Start Blogging!!!

Twitter...Is this a blog?

- Twitter is a micro blogging tool.
- Only allows 140 characters per entry.
- Great to follow and be followed!
- Helps keep up with latest and greatest in your professional area.
- Can be joined with blog for quick updates.
- Great educational resource/tool!



Sharing your Blog

- How to “advertise” your classroom or professional blog:
 - Email url to colleagues, parents, friends, peers, etc.
 - Post url on social networking sites, such as Facebook and Twitter
 - Visit other blogs, respond, and add your url
 - Keep your topics up-to-date, interesting, and thought provoking
 - Again, have fun!

Favorite Blogs

- <http://coolcatteacher.blogspot.com/>
- <http://www.mossfreestone.com/>
- <http://www.angelamaiers.com/>
- <http://catalyticconversations.blogspot.com/>
- <http://www.guide2digitallearning.com/blog>
- <http://kristascott.edublogs.org>



Effective Classroom Websites



Types of Classroom Website

- 3 Types of Classroom Websites
 1. Contact Websites
 - Contain contact information for the teacher and/or basic classroom information.
 2. Information Websites
 - Contain documents and other types of information that will help parents and students stay up-to-date with the classroom.
 3. Interactive Websites
 - Contain all of the above. Also requires students to create and interact with the website.

Contact Website

- Basic Contact Information
 - Teacher Name
 - Email Address
 - Phone Extension
 - Conference Periods w/Time
 - Classes Currently Teaching
 - Teacher Picture
- Example
 - [Altah Swindle](#), English Dept. Head at FHS

Information Website

- Contact Information plus Course Information
 - Additional information about teacher
 - Class documents
 - Useful links
- Example
 - [Micah Aten](#), Social Studies at FHS
 - [Amy Chaney](#), English I at FHS

Interactive Website

- Student Writing Assignment/Blog
 - Students were assigned to look at a picture and write a creative story. Simple rubric included.
 - [Mike Sizemore](#), Science Department Head at FHS
- Math Blogging
 - Student blog about math problems and topics. Clear rubric is given.
 - [Carol Mortensen](#), Math Bloggers

Resources

- <http://www.myweb4ed.com/>
 - A page designed by Carol Mortensen. Displays different classroom websites that seamlessly integrate into the classroom.
- <http://www.nanacarol.com/redstaplergazette/>
 - The Red Stapler Gazette is by Carol Mortensen and describes how she created websites to use in the classroom.
- <http://www.wmich.edu/teachenglish/subpages/technology/classwebsite.htm>
 - Western Michigan University website with great resources and examples.

Contact Information

- Text 50500
 - kscott
- Twitter
 - krista_scott
- Blog
 - <http://kristascott.edublogs.org>
- Email:
 - kscott@frenship.us
 - kscottfhs@gmail.com