Maximizing Student Engagement with Distance Education
Housekeeping

Mute

Chat window for questions OR raise your virtual hand

Today’s objective

Recorded

Resources at the end!
Today’s webinar & guest panelists

Robbin Clark will be presenting on a three prong approach to student engagement in the virtual classroom.

Panel members:

● Alicia Bevins, TCVI with resources for accessibility
● Jaime Pack-Adair, TCVI with tips for increasing student engagement during circle time.
● Jeanette Norman, TCVI with tips for teaching
I will teach you in a room.
I will teach you now on Zoom.
I will teach you in your house.
I will teach you with a mouse.
I will teach you here and there.
I will teach you because I care.
So just do your very best.
And do not worry about the rest.
Prong One: Lesson plans, preparation & organization

- **Lesson plans basics:**
  - Clear learning goal or objective (what is the focus of this lesson?)
  - Background knowledge (what do students need to know coming into this lesson?)
  - Procedure (how are you going to teach this?)
  - Assessment (what will students do to demonstrate understanding of the topic)

- Open your windows so that you have everything that you need at your fingertips

- Practice on your platform! Know the accessibility features.
# Meaningful Remote Learning

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### Choose a Platform
- Does the tech get in the way or improve communication and efficiency?
  - Google Classroom
  - Flipgrid
  - Seesaw
  - Parlay
  - Social Media

### Identify a Learning Goal
- Avoid assigning busy work.
- What standard and/or skill should students be learning through this lesson?
- What might they be confused by or have questions about?

### Create a Succinct Lesson
- Create a mini lesson. Model, provide a think-aloud example, or introduce/review the goal.
  - Flipped Video
    - YouTube, ScreenCastify, iMovie, Explain Everything
  - Film Clip, TEDx, Commercial
  - Short Podcast
  - Blog, website, social media post or article

### Extend and Apply
- Find a meaningful way for students to apply or practice the skill/knowledge.
  - Online discussion
  - Sketch notes
  - Retrieval practice
  - Journaling, writing letters
  - Graphic organizers
  - Read & respond
    - Scholastic
    - NewsELA
    - CommonLit
    - Actively Learn
    - Scavenger hunt

### Provide Feedback
- Motivate learners with specific comments that highlight areas of strength and growth.
  - Respond to FlipGrid videos
  - Leave comments via Google Classroom
  - Post a video with reminders and suggestions based on common needs
  - Use structured, monitored peer feedback

### Focus on Learning
- How will you know that students are learning? Collect data and use it to drive future remote or in-person lessons.
- Have students reflect and self-assess their own learning.

**Tip:** Connect remote learning experiences to home life.

Source: [https://www.readingandwritinghaven.com/making-the-most-of-e-learning-days/](https://www.readingandwritinghaven.com/making-the-most-of-e-learning-days/)
About Zoom

Who’s using it?

Benefits? Drawbacks?
Zoom 101:

- Zoom directions:
  [https://www.thetechieteacher.net/2020/03/i-just-wanted-to-pass-along-some.html](https://www.thetechieteacher.net/2020/03/i-just-wanted-to-pass-along-some.html)

- Zoom hotkeys:

- Zoom & voiceover:
Prong Two: Connect with students

- Avoid a boring lecture!
- Plan for processing & internet connection delays
  - Turn off video for low bandwidth connections
- Think of the pattern: “hook”, teach & engage
  - Engage with easy commenting, encourage students to make predictions
- Utilize your built-in supports: voice intonation & tone
- Call on students by name
- Read the chat dialogue frequently
- Meaningful descriptions, “fill in the gaps” of visual information
Platform discussion

- Consider platforms that are fun (and accessible) for students.
  - What platforms has everyone used?
Prong Three: Accessibility

- Accessible free teaching apps: https://www.aph.org/free-apps-from-aph/?fbclid=IwAR3izB7aVeDg3WrZlY2Jb80RqZpa3BqulJ2IVdx5MuSEpZG61X0k1RS4-A
- Paths to Technology: https://www.perkinselearning.org/technology
- App resources:
  o https://brailleworks.com/5-top-mobile-apps-for-the-blind/
  o https://abilitynet.org.uk/news-blogs/top-ten-apps-visually-impaired-students
- Google Classroom accessibility support: https://www.perkinselearning.org/technology/posts/google-classroom-screen-reader
- VoiceOver resources:
  o https://www.apple.com/accessibility/mac/vision/
- Tips for adapting worksheets: https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/blog/enabling-access-tips-adapting-worksheets-students-visual-impairments
Alicia

Just because it has accessibility features doesn’t mean it is great or will work for every student.

Reach out to the general team and find out what platforms they are using.

• Be available to make suggestions.
• Know what they are using so you can test and experiment with how to make it accessible.

Free tutorials on using NearPod with students with Visual Impairments.

You may have to be creative when manipulating text/options.

Add audio to powerpoint slides for teacher created resources. Or create your own powerpoint slides for ECC instruction.
Is it Accessible?

5 ways to check for Accessibility

1. When adding students to a class check if there are built in accessibility options.
2. When adding text you may be able to change background and text colors.
3. Some programs may allow you to add audio content.
4. Check advanced settings or profile settings.
5. Check help features. Some accessibility features are in places you may not have looked.
Jeanette

Meet has a new update which allows it to be started in Google Classroom. Tips for teachers: hide meeting code in Classroom, be the first in the meeting and last to leave, mute or remove students if needed.

Screencastify is a free Chrome extension. It allows you three great teaching options: screen capture with audio, screen capture with embedded video and video. This is a great option for story telling for our students with multiple disabilities. Screencastify allows you to provide audio descriptions. Screencastify also has a new video response options for students. screencastify.com
Jeanette

Keep is a Google app and service. Students can add texts, drawings (math), images, and voice recordings. Students can synchronize it with all of their devices. They can share their math in a Google Meet (by presenting their screen). A stylus is best but not required. You can also enable “dark theme,” to make it more accessible for text, but not for the drawing.

Plot the points:

- (2, 3)
- (-1, -1)
- (3, -2)
- (4, -3)
Jaime

Follow the three “E”s of circle time

● Engagement
● Encouragement
● Enthusiasm

**Avoid abstract ideas or concepts**
5 Tips for A Meaningful Circle Time

1. Choose a Theme
2. Hold, Explore and Discuss
3. Personalize Circle
4. Create Movement Opportunities
5. Use Instruments
6. Encourage Social Interactions
Choose A Theme

● Select an object to talk about
● Choose one usually found at home:
  ○ Books
  ○ Shoes
  ○ Favorite Toy
  ○ Stuffed Animal
  ○ Food
● Be prepared
  ○ Tell parents ahead of time the theme and the object they will be using
  ○ Have the same item ready
Hold, Explore and Discuss

- Incorporate the themed item into circle
- Encourage students to hold it

Explore the object

Have a discussion- adjust as needed for language skills

*Encourage your students to engage with you as you talk or sing about the item.
Personalize Circle Time

- Greet each child and pair with a positive comment
- Introduce who else is participating
- Encourage them to greet teachers and friends
- Narrate when necessary
Create Movement Opportunities

Select a song that encourages active participation- such as

- patting their head or lap
- standing up
- jumping
- waving
- playing an instrument
Use Instruments to Play with Singing or Moving

Select common household items

Cup and Spoon

Spoon and Bowl

Cardboard box (drum)

Two spoons to bang together

Shaker Bottle
Encourage Social Interactions

- Throughout circle provide opportunities for interactive participation
- Take Turns
- Pose question and answers
  - Ex: Hi Sebastian- what toy did you bring to circle
- Narrate a Show and Tell with the theme item
- Have students sing to their friends
Resources

Meaningful Circle Time Infographic

Songs:

These are my Glasses

Freeze Dance

Way Up High in the Apple Tree
Addressing the Expanded Core

● A variety of options!
  ○ Think of activities that involve the family
  ○ Online resources from APH, ObjectiveEd, etc.
  ○ Creating something such as an iBook about quarantine life
  ○ Engage in online classes with EXCEL or short term online
  ○ Look for scavenger hunts that you can do on Flipgrid
  ○ Meeting with a few students for some fun discussion

● Use your ECC assessments!