BLENDED LEARNING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY LEARNERS

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As we approach another decade of the 21st century, only one thing is certain: change. Technological advancement don’t fail to defy what was once impossible and continue to improve the lives of man. As the whole world evolves through the constant innovations, education should too. Both educators and learners should utilize the advantages of technology combined with the conventional ways used in the past decades. It is already time to modernize education to keep up with the fast-changing world, through one of the sought-after methods of teaching today: blended learning.

As stated by Lawless (2019), blended learning combines the effective aspects of in-person teaching with the best features of online learning. The versatility and comfort it offers aren’t only applicable to education, but also to the workforces in different sectors. Through educational videos from trusted websites and techniques learned from various webinars to be attended, both teachers and pupils will become more engaged, therefore resulting in having a profound understanding about the lessons. It may seem like technology will limit someone’s social interaction between his/her educators and fellow learners; but with the proper combination of being both modern and traditional, it can be assured that social learning will still be promoted.

Supplemental Blended Learning, is a face-to-face teaching but with the help of online supplementary materials, (TeachThought, 2020). In some schools, as recommended by the Department of Education, this method has been utilized for the past few years. Beyond the usual lectures inside a classroom, learning is being upgraded with the experiences of the pupils by the inclusion of PowerPoint presentations, educational applications and activity-based techniques. In accordance with the Stephen Perse
Foundation (2017), it is to ensure that children also develop critical thinking rather than merely memorizing the lessons. Being taught in a different angle is expanding their horizons, much better than being confined in a spoon-feeding type of learning.

As education adapts to the fast-paced changes around the globe, a fusion of both conventional and modern, face-to-face classroom and online platforms is exactly what our children need. A child with education is a person ready for the world, and blended learning will definitely shape the 21st century learners to cope with the present and ever-changing times.

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