ENHANCING OUR TEACHING: SOME STRATEGIES TO USE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY LEARNERS

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Teaching before is way different from the way we teachers teach right now. From the teacher-centered instruction we were used to when we were still growing up, we 21st century teachers are given a hard task to use learner-centered instruction for our students.

In order for teachers to successfully relay information to our students, we use various teaching strategies. According to Armstrong (2013), a teaching strategy is a method used to help students learn the desired course contents and be able to develop achievable goals in the future. With this thought in mind, we need to be ‘out-of-the-box’ thinkers and be more emphatic with our students by answering the question, ‘What strategy can I use for them to optimize their learning?’ Here are some strategies that can be helpful for us teachers.

1. Gallery Walk – gallery walk is a strategy where the students are able to roam around the room to view the outputs of their classmates. Through this activity, the students will communicate with one another, thus developing a 21st century skill! Likewise, to make the process more effective, the students will be tasked to synthesize the things they were able to see from the outputs of their classmates.

2. Evidence Based Teaching – in this strategy, the teachers need to be as clear as crystal water because they are tasked to tell the students what they are exactly about to learn. If this strategy is employed, the teacher does not only do remediation and reinforcement, but the teacher also nurtures each student to succeed. Lastly, metacognition is also nurtured as it is seen to be essential to everyone.
3. Video Learning – in this strategy, video content is shown to students because, nowadays students are into watching videos. But, remember that aside from watching educational videos, this is usually tied up with the two-column journal wherein students are tasked to write down facts that are needed for the lesson. Here, not only one sense is working, but multiple senses which can help learners to retain information a lot longer!

4. Social Media Learning – social media can be a place wherein fake news can spread, but as teachers we need to make our students less vulnerable to these fakers. In this strategy, the teacher will use social contexts that and the applications so students can learn easily.

5. Cooperative Learning – this teaching strategy gives the students the opportunity to work with their peers and see different perspectives. This strategy had been validated as it was seen in researches that students learn more effective when working together rather than apart! Also, this is seen as a top strategy because, the students learn that they have a certain role to play and each one is important and is able to contribute to their task.

6. Inquiry-Based Learning – everyone is born as inquisitive and this strategy is a great way to engage our students to learn more by asking questions, exploring, reporting things that they see and investigating. This will lead the student to have a deeper connection with the things that they are learning.

These are only a few teaching strategies that we can try to employ in our class, but remember this: each class is unique and the strategy you use in your previous class may or may not jive with your present students! Have a happy teaching life.

References:
www.evidencebasedteaching.org.au

https://www.teachhub.com/top-5-teaching-strategies

REX Bookstore Whole Child Education Road Show