TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR DISTANCE LEARNING

by:

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Educators together with the resources and navigate online teaching tools, one question remains: How do we actually do online teaching? There is no amount of free trials or complex digital tools will help. What we really need are best practices of strategies, now.

Online teaching platform needs to be: Accessible: it’s easy for students and parents to use at home; Equitable: it has printable activities for students without reliable internet or device access; Communicative: students can talk directly to you as well as their peers and it might be via a live chat or a discussion board; Monitorable: you can stay informed of student activity and progress; and Sustainable: your online teaching platform needs to be a realistic and long-term solution.

Remember: you do not need to find a single online teaching tool that does it all. You can try a combination of them. Just make sure that the students know how to use your chosen tools.

Create a parent–teacher partnership for online teaching. Parents play a vital role in online teaching. Parents can be the motivators, monitors, and aides for your students while teacher are on the other side of the screen but you have to actively involve them first. Let them know what to expect and tell them how they can help from the online teaching period.

Send home a parent support package. Includes: an overview of what content will be covered during the online teaching period; a list of clear strategies that parents can use to support learning at home.
Most parents will try to do what they can but keep your expectations realistic. Keep them updated on their child’s progress, you will give them feeling of confident that their child’s learning is still on track, even if the classroom has been swapped for the kitchen table.

Diversify online teaching strategies that includes a mix of text, sound and imagery. It is far more engaging than a packet of worksheets, here are some options:

Scheduled live classes via Facebook Room, Google Meet, Zoom or Skype: A live class once a week brings back the engaging dynamic of the classroom. Use the time to kickstart a discussion or delve into some new and exciting contents or lessons.

Video lectures: Teachers can put as much time as you like into recording the content-heavy part of your lesson and students are able to watch it back as many times as they need.

Give activities with gamified online learning tools: Curriculum-aligned programs such as Mathletics and Readiwriter Spelling are designed to keep learning engaging no matter where it’s taking place. It is also come with automated reporting and tailored learning journeys for each student.

Start a class blog: Assign groups or individuals to post blogs on different aspects of the lessons. It is a great strategy for going into depth.

Engage with students daily activities, take time to connect each day by providing feedback, uploading some new resources, or even just sending a hello message, continued presence will encourage students to log on each day.
References: