THE BEST FITTED TEACHER OF A 21ST CENTURY LEARNER

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The teacher holds the power to influence and mold students’ mind. One of the responsibilities is to develop the students to become better persons and prepare them to be equipped with skills and knowledge that can be used to compete in this most challenging world.

To attain this, the teacher should remain intellectually curious but professionally vital inside and outside the classroom. The teacher avoids stagnation and maintains an enviable passion for students’ memories forever because of the creativity, sense of fun and compassion.

The 21st century teacher thinks outside the box, outside the classroom, and outside the norm. She leaps outside of her classroom walls and take her students with her. She makes every moment exciting and memorable to the students.

Moreover, the teacher plays a multitude of different roles in a given day with fluidity and grace, while remaining true to herself.

According to Strauss (2011), transformation must take place in teaching and learning practices if the schools are to remain relevant in an era when information and communication technologies will continue to expand exponentially.
Talking about the shift to 21st-century teaching and learning, it’s not talking primarily about changing the tools we use. It’s about transforming the way most teachers teach today—either because they were taught to teach that way or because the accountability system makes them believe they have to teach that way.

Since all teachers are facing the internet and other digital technologies, it is a must to match and even integrate the old experience with the present educational trend. Being branded as bearer of traditional pedagogy, one should be visionary enough to shift to 21st-century educator where there is less teacher talk, hence, trying to take out the most of the students’ ability. Also, it is a must to empower students and make sure the teacher’s role is to create a classroom free from threat and stress and even more willing to take risk.

Being the teacher who is the decision-maker, she is in control of the outcomes that she wants to happen around core content. There is a need to exercise appreciative strategy so that students learn best when they are working from their strengths to accomplish the outcomes, rather than having to work from their weaknesses. This means that she is going to be a master of the curriculum.

In the battle of covering the curriculum, one of the styles is to have informal classroom assessment. An example of this is collaborating on a project. By recognizing students’ strengths through collaborating, teachers are helping students to become stronger in different dimensions. In here, teachers are developing students to become confident learners.

In creating an assessment system that is passion-based learning, teachers have to realize that the outcome of whatever we set up to be the objective of the learning is assessment. Instead of relying only on multiple-choice and paper-and-pencil tests, where everybody has to fit into the same box, we need to be able to do things like create
portfolios. The digital and Web-based tools that we have today make electronic portfolios very easy. We can take different artifacts and things that students are doing that prove mastery of the objectives and build a portfolio that displays and documents their learning.

Therefore, the teacher to be fitted to the 21st century learners, should renew her energy by learning new ideas, doing new ways to improve teaching techniques. She has strong core principles, but still evolve with changing times. She embraces new technologies and confidently move forward in the future.

Reference:
