



Why Should I Use Technology in My Classroom?

By Luke Kent

THERE ARE LOTS OF REASONS both pro and con for using technology in your classroom. Let's have a look at them before we begin to effectively implement technology into your classroom.

What Has Changed in Education?

- The tools teachers are using (i.e. Software & Hardware)
- The role of the teacher (i.e. Facilitator)
- Communication with the community (i.e. Parents)
- Linked to the world (i.e. Digital pen pals)
- Students skills (i.e. Technical)
- Access to information (i.e. Google, Wikipedia)

What Hasn't Changed in Education?

- Challenges of being a child
- Parent responsibilities
- Need for a teacher
- Need for structured time
- Need for unstructured time
- Need for student to feel safe
- Need to communicate
- Listening is still key

Education has gone through various changes over the centuries. However, none has been greater than the one occurring in this technological age. For the first time the way learning occurs is truly changing. Educators have limitless resources at their fingertips and have access to technology that can help them deliver their lessons effectively and efficiently. Students have vast stores of information at their fingertips and already have technological knowledge to access this information even before entering the classroom. Students are not overwhelmed or intimidated by technology.

Ten Reasons to Use Technology in Today's Classroom

1. Instant access to enormous amounts of information
2. Fast and efficient
3. Superb feedback
4. Today's students speak "tech"
5. Engages the learner
6. Prepares them for a "tech" based world
7. Outside experts are available
8. A window to the world
9. It is fun to use
10. Teacher learns continuously

Ten reasons NOT to Use Technology in Today's Classroom

1. Too expensive
2. Confusing and complex
3. No support systems
4. No support personnel
5. Time consuming
6. Not an effective teaching method
7. Takes away from teacher/student relationship
8. Teacher not trained to use it
9. Students will be distracted
10. Teacher becomes automated

It is too expensive, too complicated; it is not an effective method of teaching. These are just some of excuses government, school boards, and teachers give for not utilizing the power of technology more frequently in the classroom. However, if educators and administrators make a commitment to integrate the technology that is making businesses and our personal lives more efficient into our flailing education systems...the success of our students will be staggering and the future possibilities for education will be limitless.

Mr. Luke Kent is an experienced educator and the lead consultant of <http://MrKent.Net> - Education Technology Made Simple and recently received the Forsyth Exemplary Practice in ICT Award for ECOO 2007. Feel free to visit the site and/or subscribe to our fantastic monthly newsletter at <http://mrkent.net/plp/?p=subscribe>. Mr. Kent provides assistance to other educators by offering his interesting seminar, Teaching with Technology: A Fun Workshop for Technology Challenged Teachers. To book a seminar or a consultation visit <http://MrKent.Net>

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COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY

January 27, 2008
2:00 p.m.

College Goal Sunday is a free program that helps students and families fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the form that's required to apply for financial assistance for higher education.

By attending College Goal Sunday, you can complete the FAFSA and speak with financial aid professionals.

What is College Goal Sunday?

College Goal Sunday is a nationwide program that provides information and assistance to Maine students and their families applying for financial aid for higher education. College financial aid officers and other qualified professionals volunteer their time to help college-bound students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is the required federal financial aid form.

When is College Goal Sunday?

Maine's 5th College Goal Sunday will take place on January 27, 2008 at 24 sites across Maine.

Who Should Attend College Goal Sunday?

Students and families who need help completing the FAFSA form for the upcoming academic year.

What do I need to bring?

Students and their parents should bring their most recent tax information, such as completed IRS 1040 tax returns, W-2 statements and other income and benefits information.



For more information about College Goal Sunday, contact FAME at (800) 228-3734, by email at education@famemaine.com or visit the web site at www.collegegoalsundaymaine.com.