

# Curriculum Matters

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## Virtual Learning

“Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today” -Malcolm X

This month's report will focus on all that is remote/virtual learning. It often takes a catastrophic event for species to evolve. The onset of being thrown into complete remote learning due to COVID-19 is certainly a catastrophic event. The silver lining of all this is that we now have gotten more technology into our system, our practitioners have learned at a rapid pace new technology tools to support instruction virtually, people have come together to support each other in amazing ways, and

above all our kids are still learning. It has been impressive and heartwarming to see all that people have been able to do in this fairly stressful and unknown set of conditions. We have learned a lot over the last months and I believe we can take this learning and astronomically improve our system for our learners and the adults that serve them. We have a great deal of work and planning to do as well as more resources we need to plan for and put in place, but I am positive we will.

### April 2020

4/16 Seacoast Curriculum Mtg.

4/22 Competency Committee

### May 2020

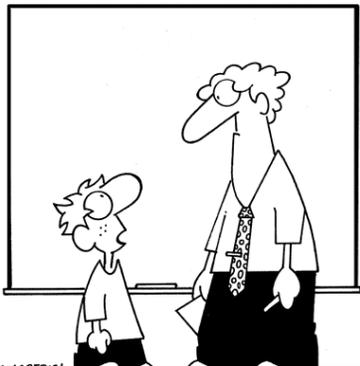
5/14 Seacoast Curriculum Mtg.

5/20 Competency Committee

### June 2020

June 3-June (?) End of Year PD and Planning

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"If my mind wanders during class, think of me as part of a distance learning program."

### Interesting Videos on Digital Learning:

Video Panel with Rick Wormeli, Lee Ann Jung, and Ken O'Connor

<https://youtu.be/ZxNkZv6vV8>

Worth the watch!!

Top 5 Ted Talks On-line Learning:

<https://blog.capterra.com/5-ted-talks-for-online-education-professionals/>

Bring on the Learning Revolution- Sir Ken Robinson  
[https://youtu.be/r9LelXa3U\\_I](https://youtu.be/r9LelXa3U_I)

Ted Talks on Redesigning School:

[https://www.ted.com/playlists/24/re\\_imagining\\_school](https://www.ted.com/playlists/24/re_imagining_school)

## Best Practices for Remote Learning

- ❑ Ensure clear instructional goals that do not move on students are in place. "Students can learn if the goals are clear and do not move on them" –Rick Stiggins
- ❑ Ensure that all stakeholders understand and are skilled at the technologies expected to be used (Parents, students, and teachers)
- ❑ Learning experiences should be engaging and motivating for students. Intrinsic motivation needs to be the focus. Higher level thinking skills the priority not low rigor tasks that suck up a lot of time and gain little impact in learning
- ❑ Assessment for learning is critical (Grading is not). We have to ensure that feedback is on-going and meaningful in relationship to instructional goals.
- ❑ Clear protocols and procedures for learning environment
- ❑ Balance of live on line sessions (synchronous) and online modules of study in a Learning Management platform (Asynchronous)
- ❑ Keep things simple and digestible, less is more
- ❑ Explicit teaching of habits of mind and thinking skills that support and ensure students have the skills to be in the driver's seat of their own learning

**REMEMBER:** *The quality of what we do matters not the quantity or how long it takes....*

### Web Resources for Remote Learning

<https://www.goguardian.com/blog/learning/best-practices-for-remote-learning/>

(Go Guardian)

<https://www.edutopia.org/blended-learning-resources>

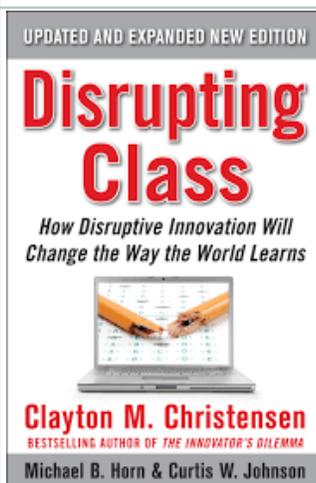
Edutopia

<https://onlinehighschool.stanford.edu/best-practices-online-classroom>

(Stanford)

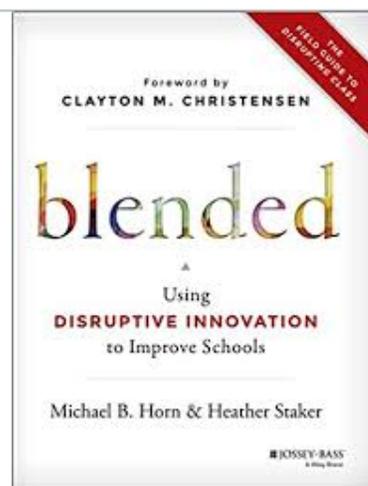
<https://www.marzanoresearch.com/work/covid-19-resources/>

(Marzano Research)



**“There are no refunds,  
students can’t get their time  
back if we waste it”**

**-Michael Allen**



## Blended Learning

Taking what works in Instructional Design and leveraging the power of technology to customize for all students...



### Michael Horn Blended Learning Overview

<https://vimeo.com/89546618>

<https://plt4m.com/2020/04/23/68-schools-going-remote-feat-michael-horn/>

Blended learning is using what research and science says is the best learning and motivation strategies to ensure high impact on student learning and using the time in a brick and mortar school time in partnership with technology to provide student control over time, pace, path, and place in their learning. There are several very effective models that can all be used in various ways within a well organized flexible school design. If we are to be successful in being able to toggle back and forth between being physically at school and how we leverage technology to keep access to learning when students are not in school we actually have to get much better at the blended learning model. The pathway to full personalized/customized competency-based education lies within the planning of this structural framework.

Clay Christensen and Michael Horn have done some great work and put out very usable and accessible tools to go with the research and science behind learning. We have to start closing the gap in what science/research says and what we are doing in education. We do still have a great disconnect. In light of our current fully remote, social distancing conditions this is becoming very clear and apparent that we have to begin the journey of school structural redesign.

### Website for more resources and videos

<https://www.christenseninstitute.org/blended-learning/>

## What do we need to consider moving forward?

This is not an exhaustive list but certainly need to be priorities moving forward in our planning and work in the area of curriculum and instruction:

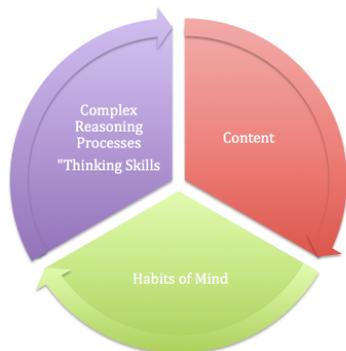
- Getting started on curriculum design
- More strategic embedded professional development and planning for teachers specifically around high quality instruction and assessment as well as blended models for learning delivery
- Leveraging technology more effectively for blended and fully digital learning
- Shifting the mindsets of stakeholders around learning, motivation, what really counts in human intellect and success in the spheres of living beyond formal acadamia
- Providing on a much larger scale social emotional supports
- Having a clear plan for entering back into the school environment for all contingencies
- Providing parents with more opportunities for training and support with technology and remote/distance learning
- Bringing on a learning management system as soon as possible
- Thinking differently and redesigning the time based structures that are barriers to blended and fully remote learning

National Statistics and News on Distance Learning

<https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=79>

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/04/10/national-survey-tracks-impact-of-coronavirus-on.html>

<https://www.onlinelearningsurvey.com/reports/k-12-online-learning.pdf>



## Curriculum Work Moving Forward

### 3 Strands of Curriculum

*Complex Reasoning Processes “thinking skills”*

*Content*

*Habits of Mind*

The curriculum structure is critical to moving forward and having high impact on student learning as well as the success in a blended or fully virtual learning environment. There are 3 strands of curriculum listed above that we have to build learning progressions, learning experiences, and reporting tools for that work together to encompass a competent learner in all spheres of life. Our curriculum work moving forward needs to begin with habits of mind and complex reasoning processes as they are the gateway to content mastery and independent learning skills. Habits of mind are not something we leave to chance. These skills are essential to all learning and motivation. Neuroscience has shown that when these are explicitly taught systemically all our students will do better in both academic and social emotional learning. Our job is not to be the deliverers of content, that is now an open source commodity. We need to cull out what is essential content for life from our standards and then use that as a vehicle to teach our kids **“how” to think not “what” to think**. When these 3 strands of curriculum are working in synergy we will see significant gains in student achievement.



Strategic Design Event is still critical to transformative change processes....We can't lose site of this moving forward!

#### Preliminary Work

- Address immediate business and organizational issues
- Build leadership capacity**
- Build harmonious relationships with staff**
- Ensure that the board of trustees understands and supports the reform efforts**
- Improve instructional practices
- Seek out research-based practices and outside perspectives
- Engage key stakeholders in a jointly **developed strategic design**

# Learning Management System

## Featuring Empower LMS



<https://www.cbe.empowerlearning.net/>



### Links to Videos about Empower

This shared drive has videos from teachers and leaders you can view on the system.....

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mVDXWc4mDH-6Hkka58cB-9ivSztthiN?usp=sharing>

Learning management systems are a critical technology component for highly effective school structures in a blended approach to learning. Our system needs to plan for and put in place a learning management system as soon as we can. Though the abundance of tools out there are great having a platform that does it all from the management of instructional curriculum goals, to tools for building learning experiences, and dynamic reporting capabilities all in one place. With all that learning management technology can ensure we can move out of time based structures, customize for all our learners, and empower our teachers to do innovative and creative work with ease, flexibility, and efficiency.

Empower by far is the most superior learning management system for proficiency/competency based, personalized education in our field right now. My research for my doctoral work was focused on the technologies to support personalized/customized competency based education and this technology surpassed any others in my expert opinion when it comes to meeting all the structural and pedagogical demands that are required to live in the life of a new school design that does expect blended and as we have seen sometime fully virtual learning.

The website link leads you to more information about this platform. It will not break the bank and is now a very necessary platform to have on deck.

What do we need to be ready for such a platform?

- Learning progressions curriculum model for the target browser and reporting functions
- Extensive PD on the research and pedagogy for highly effective instruction and assessment  
"Shifted Mindsets"

Estimated Cost of this System:

[Empower Pricing Guide](#)