Challenges of Blended Learning:

Getting started can be challenging. Where do we begin? Will the students be engaged? Will this be time-consuming? These are just a few questions teachers may have when implementing the station rotation. The challenges of implementing blended learning are fixed mindset, consistency, and teachers trusting the process.

What is Blended learning?

Blended learning is a style of teaching that integrates teacher-led instruction, technology, and digital media to provide students with more flexibility in their learning. Station rotation is a unique form of blended learning; all of the learning occurs in the classroom through a series of stations in which the student rotates.

We must show teachers that we are not reinventing the wheel but modifying it to a modern style. Due to the day-to-day tasks, known as the whirlwind, we can become distracted. We must remember that the goal is to create a significant learning environment to promote student engagement. Most teachers make the same mistake by putting technology first before learning. This will be a challenge because learning is the central concept, and it is a catalyst for teachers to guide students in making meaningful connections.

As teachers start blended learning, obstacles arise; they may think it is time-consuming at first but realize it benefits both students and teachers. When blended learning is implemented effectively, students are more engaged, their learning increases, and they can deepen their understanding of concepts (Staker & Horn, 2015).

The Benefits of Blended Learning:

There are numerous benefits to using blended learning. In order for students to learn, they must be engaged. Students learn best when they are actively participating. We can create personalized lessons in this environment to cater to students' needs. Students can also experience student-directed learning and learn at their own pace. This approach also enables the school to service a variety of students who need a non-traditional learning mode (Watson, 2008). They can also collaborate, connect ideas, and be innovative learners. Students learn to communicate effectively by listening to each other and developing their critical thinking skills to open up to peers' suggestions and ideas. As students walk and talk from station to station, they can stimulate prior knowledge to new knowledge. While moving about, this will help them learn and keep them involved.

The Power of Station Rotation

Using station rotation, we can create smaller learning communities. It enables teachers to group students by academic needs and learning styles. It also allows educators to conference with students for a more individualized lesson.

1. Allow students to engage and build on their experience actively.
2. Create collaboration opportunities.
3. Various learning methods improve knowledge retention.
4. The teacher/ Instructor will have the time to assist students with difficulties.

We are implementing a Blended learning approach within station rotations that will consist of four stations. In order to plan out our station rotation, we need to develop a plan for weekly lessons and activities, prepare centers, create groups, provide support in small groups, and, most importantly, set goals with current data.

- Teacher small group (3-4 students receiving small group instruction)
- Collaboration (teamwork)
- Writing Center (Sentence structure, syntax, and typing.com lessons on Chromebooks)
- Technology (using Chromebooks/Ipads)

Students will use Chromebooks or Ipads to access different technology applications and websites. Students will be using Flipgrid, Seesaw, Nearpod, MyOn, google classroom, and all google applications (google documents /google slides). Students will use a website to enhance their typing skills for the upcoming Texas State Assessments.

Duration:

Teachers will facilitate station rotation two to three times weekly. Changes and adjustments will depend on student progress and responses throughout the year.

Implementing Innovation Plan to Action:

To begin implementing the plan, we will set up our classroom into stations. During station rotation, students will work independently, use technology, collaborate, and receive small group instruction. It is vital to have clear instructions and routines in place for the blended learning environment to be successful.

On the first day, students will explore the stations and become familiar with each station's tools and supplies. Before moving through stations, students will receive 10-minute whole

group instruction where we define each station's expectations and purpose. Students will receive the following:

- Directions for each station

- Interactive Journals w/pencil

- Display timer on board

- 15 minutes per station

- Two rotations a day

- Complete Exit Ticket

In this significant learning environment, students can display their learning through the media of choice at the end of the unit. We desire to create an environment where students are engaged and actively participate in their learning. The teacher will analyze data during small group instruction and conferences with students to show their progress and set academic goals.

Individually, using a blended learning approach with station rotation and incorporating technology will help increase student engagement in classroom settings. Students will have a learning experience with a choice, ownership, voice, and an authentic learning experience.

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