

Buffett
Early Childhood
Institute
at the University of Nebraska

Planning for Digital and Blended Learning Experiences

Start early. Start well.



Lead panelist

Dr. Chip Donohue

Founding director of the Technology in Early Childhood (TEC) Center at Erikson Institute and senior fellow at the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media



Panelists



Megan Rogers
Kindergarten/first
grade teacher at
Omaha Virtual School



Mark Dowling
Second/third grade
teacher at Omaha
Virtual School



Tony Gunther
Principal at Kennedy
Elementary School



Octavia Butler
First grade teacher at
Gomez Heritage
Elementary School

Today's key concepts

1. Relationships matter most
2. Take a multi-sensory approach
3. Essentials for virtual teaching success
4. Tips for virtual and blended teaching

Relationships matter most

Increase your touch points

- Notice **contributions**
- Encourage **interactions**
- Nurture **relationships**
- Promote **collaboration**
- Build **community**



Take a “multi-sensory” approach to virtual and blended teaching

The five senses

1. Sense of place
2. Sense of belonging
3. Sense of safety and security
4. Sense of connection
5. Sense of community



Your familiar, comforting, and encouraging presence trumps the unfamiliar

5 essentials for virtual teaching success

1. Find your **voice**
2. Establish **presence**
3. Tell a **story**
4. Feel the **rhythm**
5. Build **community**



Tips for navigating virtual and blended teaching

- Recognize how classroom and virtual teaching **inform each other**
- Connect the **real classroom** with the **virtual space/**
Connect **virtual learning** to **real life**
- Determine the optimal mix of **asynchronous** and **synchronous**
- Use a **variety** of group, individual, self-paced, and off-screen activities
- Provide **daily prompts for family interactions** and a **family activity they can do together offline**

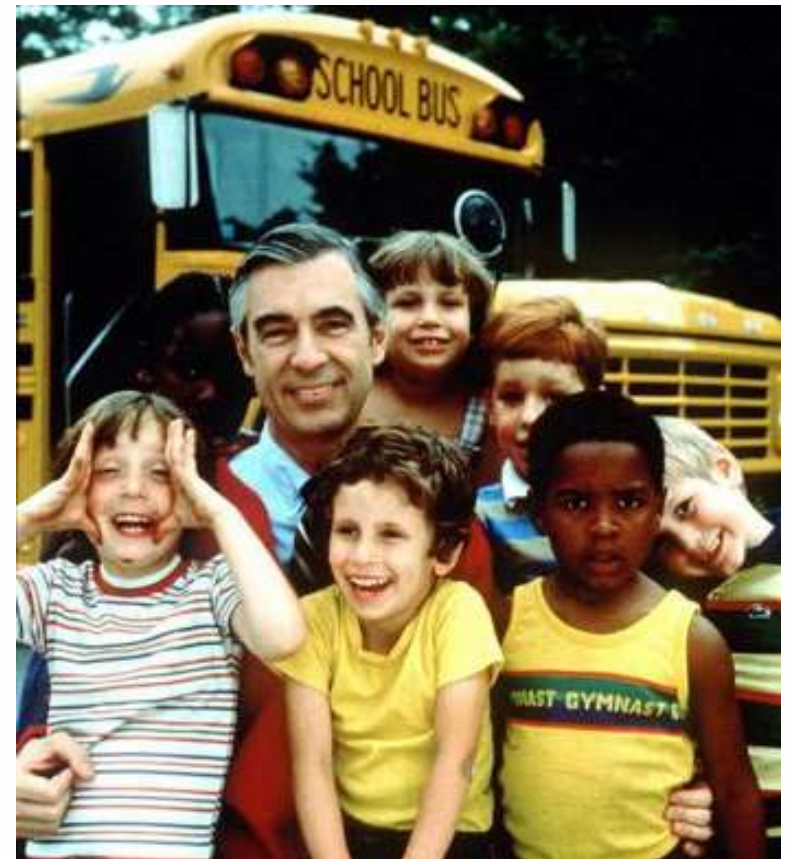
Tips from the Neighborhood: What Fred Rogers can teach us about hybrid and virtual learning

- Teaching and learning are never remote
– *Relationships matter most*
- Bring your **whole self** to teaching
- **Slow down**, use a calm, reassuring tone and a **gentle pace**
- Keep routines **consistent** and **predictable**



Tips from the Neighborhood: What Fred Rogers can teach us about hybrid and virtual learning

- Talk to one child at a time and to all the children at once
- Give children time to **notice**, be **curious**, and **wonder**
- Model it is **OK to make mistakes** and how hard it is to learn something new
- Let them “**catch your enthusiasm**”



Start early. Start well.

