Planning for Digital and Blended Learning Experiences

Start early. Start well.
Lead panelist

Dr. Chip Donohue

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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”
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