Benefits of a digital classroom

David: We get to put professional tools in the hands of our students. More and more professions use computers and technology. To prepare students for a connected, technology rich world, our schools should do their best to give them practice in that environment.

Kern: The opportunities for collaborating with peers or even experts are endless. Students in my school produce a live, weekly tech help show called the Tech Sherpas that connect them with resources and experts outside with other student groups around the world. We share our expertise and we learn from those students that are doing really innovative projects. When I started teaching these opportunities didn't even exist.

How has technology affected student learning?

Kern: Access to the internet opens up a whole world of information to my students. We don't have "unanswered questions" in my class anymore. When a student asks a question that we're not sure the answer to, they'll just dive right in to go find it on their own. Just being connected to the internet allows my kids to go pursue their passions like they never have been able to before.

Maya N: Being connected to the Internet is not just about having access to information. It's about having access to people. One of my students wanted to hear from the author of his favorite book. With just a little searching he found the author's contact information and we connected with her. Our students were really excited to hear from her. And she was excited to talk with us about her writing process. That's type of direct access to real world experts just wasn't possible before we got computers.

Words of wisdom for getting started

David: I would encourage teachers to take risks and not worry about getting it all right the first time. There are lots of learning opportunities that can come from failure. You are modeling for students what it means to be a learner, and how adult learners can problem solve and learn from mistakes. Kids need to see that.

Maya N: I think we have to get comfortable with not knowing everything there is to know about the technology. We, as teachers, are professional facilitators of learning. We aren't necessarily tech whizzes. If your pedagogy is solid, and you know the learning targets and how to get students there, then you can let the students help to sort out the tech. They'll enjoy the problem solving.

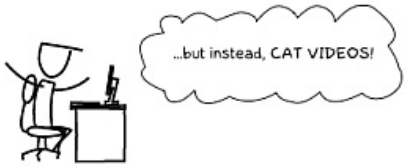
The Benefits Of Educational Technology

What are the good and the bad things about the internet?

THE INTERNET

Pros	Cons
Free music	Musicians don't get $

The Internet:
A List of Pros and Cons

Pro: You can see what your friends are up to.	Con: You can see what your friends are up to.
Pro: Everyone's always on it.	**Con: Everyone's always on it.**
Pro: Everyone can use it.	**Con: Everyone can use it.**
Pro: Anyone can easily share their ideas.	**Con: Anyone can easily share their ideas.**
Pro: Old friends can find you.	**Con: Old friends can find you.**
Pro: Things can go viral.	**Con: Things can go viral.**
Pro: It makes things easily accessible.	**Con: It makes things easily accessible.**
	
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