

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

<p>Pro: You can see what your friends are up to.</p>  <p>Wow. Some of my friends got ice cream last night and posted pictures of what they ate.</p>	<p>Con: You can see what your friends are up to.</p>  <p>Until I also post pictures of myself eating ice cream, I will feel like I have completely failed at life.</p>
<p>Pro: Everyone's always on it.</p>	<p>Con: Everyone's always on it.</p>
 <p>I'm pretty sure my buddy's available to chat...</p>	 <p>...but like me, he's probably set to 'invisible' to avoid people chatting with him.</p>
<p>Pro: Everyone can use it.</p>	<p>Con: Everyone can use it.</p>
 <p>Oh my God! Grandma's on Facebook!</p>	 <p>Oh my God ... Grandma's ... on Facebook.</p>
<p>Pro: Anyone can easily share their ideas.</p>	<p>Con: Anyone can easily share their ideas.</p>
 <p>I appreciate all the comments left on my latest blog post...</p>	 <p>...so it's too bad I'll be deleting all of them for being terrible.</p>
<p>Pro: Old friends can find you.</p>	<p>Con: Old friends can find you.</p>
 <p>Hey! I REMEMBER that guy!</p>	 <p>Whoa. I FORGOT about that girl.</p>
<p>Pro: Things can go viral.</p>	<p>Con: Things can go viral.</p>
 <p>Looks like my buddy finally edited and uploaded that skating tutorial we shot together...</p>	 <p>...and left in the part where I accidentally tripped over a potted plant and ended up in the pool.</p>
<p>Pro: It makes things easily accessible.</p>	<p>Con: It makes things easily accessible.</p>
 <p>With just a few clicks I can have all the information I could possibly need to help me write this paper...</p>	 <p>...but instead, CAT VIDEOS!</p>
	<p>DOGHOUSEDIARIES</p>