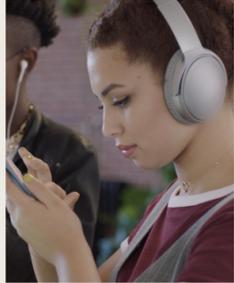




Four Ways to Support Digital Natives in Blended Learning

#1

Not all students are digital natives. We need to build digital skills and access.



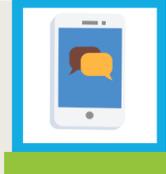
Access to digital resources is inequitable. An estimated one-third (**31.4%**) of U.S. households, or **5 million families** with school aged children, **do not** have a high-speed internet connection.

In Action:

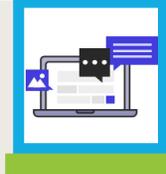
- Implement blended learning models with in-class access. Even when only a few devices are available, teachers can use a Station Rotation model.
- Reach out to the community to see if anyone has devices to donate for student use.
- Build partnerships for equitable digital access with companies dedicated to helping.
- Make resources downloadable and mobile accessible so students can listen/watch without wifi.
- Incorporate foundational skill building opportunities when introducing new tech tools.

Don't assume students can apply their social and entertainment tech skills to academic settings.

#2



This is the generation of instant message, not email. Students communicate via images, videos, gifs, emoticons, and acronyms more often than sentences or even words



Students need assistance in:

- transferring social skills (i.e. group messaging) to similar academic skills (i.e. participation on a discussion board)
- effectively collaborating in the classroom



Outside of school, students rarely have reason to:

- conduct academic research,
- collect and analyze data,
- create presentations
- organize online files,
- complete and submit work digitally,
- add a calendar reminder

In Action:

- Introduce one new tool at a time and provide training and practice opportunities.
- Collaborate with students to set clear expectations for interacting within the platform with peers.

#3

Engage students in shared visioning to gain buy-in and build understanding.

Students transitioning from a traditional model of learning to a blended environment must make the same mindset shift as their teachers.

In Action:

- Do not assume that all digital natives like technology and will like learning with technology.
- Use class discussions which bring student assumptions about learning to the surface and collaboratively envision a new way of learning together.
- Select a blended learning model most proximal to the current mode of learning. Let students know that it's a new strategy and engage them in providing feedback. Then build off that model to incorporate other models with this feedback in mind.

Empower your inner "Digital Immigrant" and model a growth mindset.

#4

As mobile technology and social media has become thoroughly embedded in our culture across generations, the gap between digital natives and digital immigrants has greatly decreased.

In Action:

- Model academic use of technology and responsible digital interaction.
- Model we are never too old to learn and grow. Let them foster that growth.

REFERENCES:

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/04/20/the-numbers-behind-the-broadband-homework-gap/>