BEYOND CLASSROOM TEACHING

By – Anju Gupta

As the COVID-19 situation unfolds, schools have closed for the benefit of their students, teachers and their families but this doesn't mean a stop to learning for students or teachers. If the current crisis teaches us anything, it is that there is a need across the educational sector to plan for sustainable, quality, flexible learning options and talking about flexible learning, we inevitably think about technology.

In the present scenario, schools are doing the best job they can to give students access to resources for learning and these may include using technology to conduct remote teaching using video platforms – where devices are available and the internet is accessible to students and teachers. Schools generally also have content management systems where students and parents can access resources to support remote learning.

Michale Allen rightly said .'There are no refunds: the learners cannot get their time back if we waste it'. So all schools have to gear up.

Available Resources

This is a whole school collaborative effort. The school has to assess- .

- the technologies school already has and what technology students have access to

-
- staff and student skills in the use of different technologies like Google classrooms, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet .
-
- Availability of Online Resources Portals like Diksha, e-paathshala, Swayam, Google classroom resources, Google classroom cheatsheets, Remote Learning Resources, e-books etc
-
- Teachers sending their PPTs, PDF of topics to students through direct email attachments and Google drive links etc

Planning

- your school resources developed by your teachers will be better for learning than free educational technology tools, so use these first as a basis of remote teaching;
- Have special time tables so that everyone doesn't need to be online at the same time and teachers can be working elsewhere
- if you are part of a network or system, work out ways in which you can share resources and workload;
- parents' technological skills are very important in supporting and developing student skill levels .Communicate to parents how they can support their students in using technology;
- customize Learning Solutions. Your plan for continuity of teaching and learning should include synchronous and asynchronous activities (activities that students can work on their own or with their parents, that don't require them to be online) and non-technology-based resources and work
- Use of Phones , desktops and laptops may be suggested to cater to all sections of parents. Consider how you might involve them in student learning and how you can best communicate with the parent body and support them to support their children.

Execution

You can hold introductory session of teachers with parents and orient them about any change in the teaching pedagogy and evaluation system.

- Create a timetable. Include Invocation of God and energizers everyday before commencement of teaching.
- Know your audience. Write a profile for each class/group/child you teach which includes what you need to know about their circumstances and how they will keep you informed of changes. Schedule time to each to clear their doubts and queries of the taught topic.
- Inter-disciplinary teaching . You can include activity teachers like music, dance, art & craft teachers and librarians for refreshing sessions in between. Help them tailor their presentations to meet the needs of the curriculum and your students.
- Record videos in advance that help students and parents with technological skills as well as content.
- Include existing materials like virtual tours in your lesson plans to make them interesting.
- Get students to investigate a personal topic of interest and report back to the group maybe using a video.
- Consider ways in which you can continue your buddy system online.
- Include Virtual Birthday celebrations of your students on daily basis
- Also prescribe a healthy food receipe for students everyday and include Life skills activities

Upskill your staff and focus on collaboration

- Build expertise in online learning design through accessing external expertise and professional learning opportunities for teachers.
- Ensure all your teachers have **online teaching skills** and can use the Learning Management System to deliver high-quality, engaging learning experiences.
- Develop learning designs for particular subjects This takes time, so the more teachers can work in teams , the easier and quicker it will be. An effective lesson plan must be a blend of instructional designs, visual designs, presentations, story telling, project work and teacher curated content
- Provide opportunities for teachers to share and showcase their practice – using the same collaborative tools as they use for online teaching.

AND DO NOT FORGET TO GIVE DAILY REMINDER TO STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS TO FOLLOW ALL THE RULES TO FIGHT COVID-19