

GOING DIGITAL

9 Teacher-Author Tips for Blended and Distance Learning

If your school is looking at another year of distance learning or moving to a blended learning model, check out these digital teaching tips and tools that have worked for other educators in your shoes.

1.

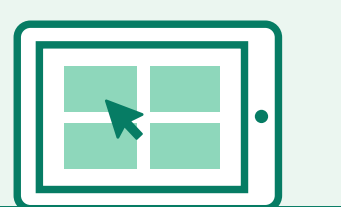
“The do's of video sessions are to be **resourceful and open-minded**. Be prepared to troubleshoot and definitely have patience with yourself and your students as you adapt to a new method of learning. Keep in mind that it does not have to be fancy to be effective and building a solid rapport to make your students feel comfortable is going to take you far.”

BVG SLP

2.

“The strategies you use online are different from the **strategies you use in class, where you can rely on proximity**. In live video sessions, I randomly call on kids, I keep the lessons moving along, and I use a variety of tools like online bingo, Google Form escape rooms, and videos to mix it up.”

MS COTTONS CORNER



3.

“Attendance and engagement were challenging, but I did **virtual classroom transformations with interactive activities**, digital scavenger hunts, costume days, group challenges/competitions, and digital games to meet that challenge.”

GIFTED TEACHER 305

4.

“One of my favorite tools for virtual teaching is Screencastify. It's an easy-to-use [extension] that records you and your screen. I used it to **record pre-taught lessons when I couldn't meet live with my class**, or [if] I wanted to do a flipped classroom, having them watch the video and then meet after in a live setting to clarify and ask questions. After you're finished recording, the video loads directly into your Google Drive to edit and share with your students!”

SPARKLING IN SECOND GRADE

5.

“The biggest challenge I faced was getting students to be motivated to actually learn and complete the assignments. To solve this, I used **fun, digital, self-checking activities**, instead of simply assigning worksheets. My students really enjoyed completing the assignments and learning the material in a fun way.”

AMUSING ALGEBRA

6.

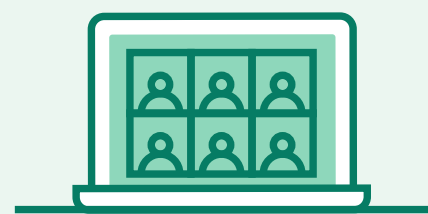
“Since I get new students every quarter, I wound up teaching students I had never met face-to-face. [. . .] I began by having a **discussion question of the week that helped them get to know each other and myself**. I responded to each post individually, set up Google Meets, and made phone calls to share in small groups and one-on-one.”

KATHLEEN APPLEBEE

7.

“One of my biggest challenges was giving one-on-one help to students that needed it. To help with this, each week I **sent out a survey to parents** with five short yes or no questions. If they responded yes to any of them, I sent them a special link to my small group Zoom tutoring session.”

TEACH THROUGH THE CHAOS



8.

“The **less [students] you have online at one time, the better**. Doing a Zoom call with even half the class is a huge challenge due to noises and distractions.”

LEARNING IN WONDERLAND

9.

“I think it is critical to have a classroom management system during virtual lessons. Engagement is even more important during live lessons, as the students' environments are beyond our control. Whatever your management system is in class, come up with a digital version of it. I **use classical music to help motivate students** and keep students focused.”

LEARNING N PROGRESS

Tips for Using Easel by TpT™

With Easel by TpT, you can easily create engaging online lessons with a suite of digital tools. To get started:



DISCOVER AND PREPARE:

Customize resources from TpT, or create your own activity, by adding answer boxes, notes, movable shapes, and more. Preview how your resources will look for your students.



INSTRUCT AND ASSIGN:

Share your screen with students and use annotation tools while in Preview mode to demo an activity and create a digital whiteboard. Then, assign your activity online (via a link) for students to complete on their devices.



REVIEW AND ASSESS:

Review student responses and send them feedback, all from Easel.