



Why technology takes teaching over the top

Developed in collaboration with

Google for Education

A great teacher can change the entire trajectory of one's life.

But with growing numbers of students in the average classroom, it takes considerable time and resources to give each learner the individual attention they need to excel.

It's one reason technology is so essential in the classroom. So, how can having access to tech take teaching over the top and transform student learning outcomes?

That's the subject of today's lesson.

Open up your laptops and get ready for an information download. Here are just a few of the ways technology brings true value-add to teaching and learning.



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Helps deeply engage students in learning

At a time when distance learning has become increasingly necessary, commanding student attention is more crucial – and competitive – than ever.

Truth is, even in a “normal” school year teachers can’t rely on in-person lectures alone. They need updated technology capable of delivering new mediums to keep learning minds stimulated and invested in the material.

Nothing brings lessons to life like technology. Teachers who use it to captivate their classrooms often see better learning comprehension overall. And thanks to cutting-edge technology like virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR), educators have access to a suite of enriching content.

These immersive experiences help students connect with and fully integrate complex lessons. It’s the difference between simply reading about the rise of the Roman Empire and seeing a full sensory simulation of the Colosseum’s construction.

Develops richer relationships with students – and fellow teachers

The more a teacher can tailor their lessons and instruction the better they'll be able to appeal to the individual needs and learning pace of each student. When students feel seen in this way, the acknowledgment often builds more meaningful relationships between learner and educator.

A great example is how technology makes accessibility tools more widely available to students with learning differences. Whether they're learning in a new language and require translation tools, rely on text-to-speech applications to pen their thoughts, or need video magnifiers and screen readers because of impaired vision, all students deserve equal access to a teacher's thoughtfully planned lessons. In essence, the inclusive classroom is a connected classroom.

But it's not just the student-teacher relationship that stands to deepen with the use of technology. Technology is facilitating teacher-to-teacher interactions, too.

As with any industry, collaborating and sharing best practices among your peers is a great way to get even better at your job. And online learning communities are just one tactic teachers can use to information share. Whether an art teacher in a rural area wants to pick the brain of an urban aesthetics professor, or a district wants to create a lesson plan think tank, there's a wealth of information to be learned from other teachers of the same grade-level or subject area. Free and paid communities include the CUE (Computer Using Educators), ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education), and Twitter groups to support teachers as they implement technology in their classrooms.





Makes feedback more insightful and immediate.

There is no shortage of ways to track a student's progress throughout the year. But notated spreadsheets and standardized tests have their limits. Tech-savvy teachers prefer programs that allow them to assess a student's comprehension in real-time.

Instead of just compiling grades and data to analyze at the end of a semester, high-tech dashboards offer teachers a way to instantly pinpoint any gaps in understanding.

If they do see a troubling trend, feedback-focused tech tools support like collaborative documents, voice prompts, and video responses can help instructors make a personal connection with students as they devise a plan to course-correct.



The big takeaway

Great tech can never replace poor teaching – plain and simple. It's a tool good teachers can use to become great teachers, and great teachers can use to change lives - but it can only enhance, never supplant.

Students still need instruction on how to safely engage with digital content and protect their privacy. They also need adult stakeholders to empower them to take the applications they have access to and use them to make an impact on the world around them.