

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

A complete guide to understanding the latest learning trends in today's 21st century classrooms and how to integrate EdTech to support them, increase student engagement, and improve learning outcomes.





THE ULTIMATE GUIDE: AN INTRODUCTION

Education is constantly evolving, and learning trends are always changing to meet the needs of students and teachers. In today's classrooms, technology has become a driving force behind many of the latest learning trends, with innovative tools and platforms that enhance the student experience and provide new ways of teaching and learning. There is a growing focus on creating engaging and interactive learning environments that foster student engagement and support student success.

Whether you are a teacher, administrator, or parent, it is important to stay informed about the latest learning trends and how they are shaping the future of education. We've created the Ultimate Guide to Educational Technology to give you a one-stop resource for everything you need to know about the latest trends that are infiltrating today's modern classrooms, the best educational technology (EdTech) to utilize to support these trends and maximize their benefits, and the steps to take to integrate this technology into your learning environment.

From exploring the benefits of EdTech to determining your needs, this guide will provide you with the resources and information you need to understand what is happening in today's classrooms, support student learning, and make informed decisions about the role of technology in education.

THE LATEST TRENDS IN THE MODERN CLASSROOM

The modern classroom is undergoing a transformation, driven by advances in technology and a growing understanding of the best ways to engage and educate students. Today's classrooms are embracing new approaches to teaching and learning that are student-centered, innovative, and use technology to support student growth and development. Some of the latest trends in the modern classroom include flipped classrooms, blended learning, collaborative learning, gamification, and esports. These approaches are designed to increase student engagement, improve learning outcomes, and better prepare students for success in a rapidly changing world. These trends are helping to create a modern classroom that is dynamic, interactive, and focused on student success.

FLIPPED CLASSROOM

The flipped classroom is a learning model that “flips” the traditional model of lecture-based instruction in the classroom and completing homework outside of the classroom. Students learn new content through online materials before class, and use in-person class time for discussions, interactive activities, and hands-on projects to deepen their understanding and apply what they have learned. With this educational approach, less time is needed to cover basic information and instead, more time is allotted for a tailored approach to each class where teachers can create more engaging lessons. Additionally, because students are engaging with new material individually at home, they're able to develop valuable independent learning skills.

BLENDED LEARNING

Blended learning is an educational approach that combines traditional face-to-face instruction with technology-based learning, such as online coursework, digital resources, and self-paced learning. In a blended learning environment, students have some control over the time, place, and pace of their learning, and teachers use technology to support and enhance the learning experience. The goal of blended learning is to provide a flexible, personalized, and efficient learning experience where the teacher takes advantage of technologies to support their lessons and better focus on the individual needs of the students. It brings a whole new set of possibilities in terms of flexibility and accessibility, placing the learner at the center of its learning process.

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

Collaborative learning is a learning model where students work together in small groups to solve problems, complete projects, or learn new information. Collaborative learning can take many forms, including peer-to-peer learning, group problem-solving activities, and team-based projects. The emphasis is on students working together to achieve a common goal, rather than on individual achievement. The goal of collaborative learning is to promote active and engaged learning, encourage students to share their knowledge and perspectives, and help students develop social and communication skills.

GAMIFICATION

Gamification in education is the use of game design elements and game mechanics in the educational context to engage and motivate students to learn. This can include elements such as points, badges, leaderboards, and narratives to create a game-like experience in the classroom or while learning online. Gamification can be used to make learning more interactive, fun, and engaging, and to help students achieve their learning objectives. The goal of gamification in education is to increase student motivation, engagement, and participation in learning activities by tapping into their natural tendencies to play and compete. This learning model is aimed to challenge, teach, entertain and focus students.

ESPORTS

Esports is not exactly a learning model exclusively, but it is gaining tremendous popularity in K-12 and Higher Education environments and is considered a rising trend in today's education settings. Esports in education is the use of competitive video gaming as a tool for learning and education. This can include organized esports tournaments, game-based learning activities, and the integration of gaming principles and practices into the curriculum. The goal of esports in education is to use the excitement and competitive nature of gaming (like gamification) to support student learning and growth in a fun and engaging way. Esports programs can range from after-school clubs to full-fledged academic programs and provides students with opportunities to develop skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, problem-solving, and strategic planning, as well as foster a love of learning and improve motivation and engagement in the classroom.

WHAT IS EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY?

A common theme seen in all the latest trends we're seeing in today's 21st century learning environments is the use of technology to support each learning model. That's where educational technology (or EdTech) comes into play. EdTech refers to the use of technology tools and resources to enhance and support teaching and learning, with the goal of improving student outcomes and making learning more engaging, efficient and accessible. This can include online learning platforms, virtual and augmented reality, digital educational games and simulations, educational software, and various forms of multimedia and technology-based instruction.



EDTECH TO SUPPORT THE LATEST LEARNING TRENDS

In today's world of education, greater demands are being placed on teachers to do more while budgets are shrinking or under scrutiny. Faced with these challenges, IT staff and educators are looking for creative, long-lasting and cost-efficient solutions that support these new teaching methods and enable a new level of interactivity in the classroom. Let's look at some of the top EdTech that does just that while supporting the latest learning trends.

71% of educators say technology has helped empower them in ways that elevate their instruction and capacity as a teacher.

source: educationblog.microsoft.com

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Learning management systems (LMS) such as Blackboard or Canvas, provide teachers with a platform to create, organize and manage educational content, such as course materials, quizzes, and assignments, to students. Students can access the content, track their progress, and participate in online discussions through the LMS. An LMS also provides instructors with tools to monitor student activity, assess student performance, and provide feedback to students and parents. An LMS streamlines and supports the teaching and learning process, making it more efficient and effective.

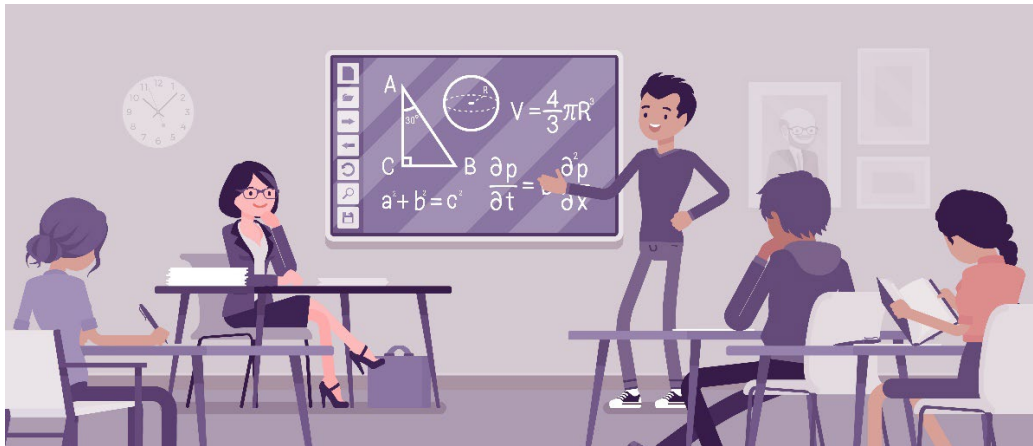
LAPTOPS, CHROMEBOOKS AND TABLETS

Laptops, Chromebooks and tablets can help create a more engaging and personalized learning experience. They can be used for a wide range of educational activities, including taking notes, researching, and creating digital content. They also allow students to personalize their learning experience, with access to a wide range of digital resources and tools that can be tailored to their individual needs and learning styles. Laptops, Chromebooks and tablets support interactive learning experiences through online resources, educational games and simulations, and other multimedia tools, and allow for real-time collaboration, both within the classroom and remotely, enabling students to work together on projects and assignments. Lastly, this type of EdTech provide access to digital resources and materials, making education more accessible.

INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS

An interactive whiteboard is a large display, controlled by finger touch or a stylus, that can be easily integrated with computers and other devices. It's a great tool to utilize to engage in the physical classroom, virtual classrooms, or a combination of both for hybrid learning. There are many different models and sizes of interactive whiteboards available on the market to fit any education environment, budget, and any teaching level and student ability. Overall, interactive whiteboards can play an important role in making education more interactive, engaging, and accessible.

Interactive whiteboards replace outdated lessons with a myriad of tools for keeping students engaged. Teachers have access to an endless supply of lesson plans, materials, videos and games that can be used to increase engagement in the class while decreasing lesson preparation time. Interactive whiteboards also provide a more inclusive learning experience since teachers can engage auditory, visual, and tactile learners through the combination of audio, video, and touch screen functionality.



While some interactive whiteboards offer basic digital whiteboarding software, others can provide an entire solution capable of streamlining and digitizing every stage of the learning process, from lesson prep to presentation to revision and testing. That's why ViewSonic's interactive displays are among the best options out there. ViewSonic's myViewBoard digital whiteboarding software offers a full suite of tools, features, and functions within a single platform that provides cloud storage for teachers to access their lessons from anywhere, digital annotation tools and multiple presentation options for better engagement, and a built-in platform for video-assisted learning with over 2 million vetted educational videos with customizable lesson plans. Entirely program agnostic, myViewBoard allows teachers to plan their lessons in whichever program they are comfortable without the worry of compatibility issues.

AUDIO AND VIDEO CONFERENCING EQUIPMENT

Audio and video conferencing technologies allow teachers to remain connected to their students, no matter the distance between them, which is imperative in today's learning landscape. This type of educational technology enables real-time collaboration between students and teachers, regardless of location, promoting teamwork and communication, and creating a more engaging and interactive environment. Audio and video conferencing equipment also makes education more accessible for students with disabilities, allowing them to participate in classes and collaborate with their peers. Overall, audio and video conferencing equipment play an important role in enhancing the educational experience by providing students with access to remote learning and improved collaboration opportunities.

GAMING PCS AND MONITORS

While laptops, Chromebooks and tablets play an important role in the classroom, monitors are also a crucial piece of EdTech in today's modern learning environments, especially when it comes to esports. When it comes to gaming PCs, generally desktop computers are ideal for optimal performance. They tend to be easier to upgrade over time than a laptop, and they are also easier to keep cool, which is a major advantage when it comes to performance, especially when playing more demanding games with high system requirements. For the vast majority of esports players, the best operating system for a gaming computer is going to be the latest version of Microsoft Windows. Not only is it by far the most widely utilized operating system, but it is also the option that will provide the fewest issues in terms of compatibility, which means a wider range of games to play. Other components of a great gaming PC include a graphics card with 8GM VRAM, hgh-speed CPU and an efficient cooling system.

Another crucial element of your esports setup is your gaming monitor and there are a number of things to keep in mind here. Firstly, you are going to want the monitor to be a decent size so that you can clearly see the games you are playing. The best options here are either 24", 27", 32", or 35", depending on your budget and available space. You are going to want to invest in a flicker-free screen and the best gaming monitors will offer 1ms response time and fast refresh rates. There is also some evidence suggesting that curved monitors can produce benefits in terms of both immersion and eye comfort, so it is worth taking that into account when making your decision.

HOW TO INTEGRATE EDTECH INTO THE CLASSROOM

Properly integrating EdTech into the classroom requires careful planning, ongoing evaluation, and a commitment to making technology an integral part of the learning process. With the right approach, EdTech can help enhance student outcomes and make the educational experience more engaging and effective.



- 1. Start with a clear goal:** Determine what you want to achieve with EdTech, such as improving student engagement, increasing student achievement, or making the learning process more efficient.
- 2. Choose the right tools:** Select EdTech tools that align with your goals and meet the needs of your students. Consider the user-friendliness, compatibility with existing systems, and cost of each tool.
- 3. Plan for implementation:** Create a detailed plan for integrating EdTech into your teaching practice, including how to introduce the tools to students, how to train teachers and staff, and how to assess the impact of the technology.
- 4. Involve students and teachers:** Involve both students and teachers in the integration process to ensure everyone feels comfortable and confident with the new technology.
- 5. Assess and evaluate:** Regularly assess and evaluate the impact of the EdTech on student learning, including feedback from students, teachers, and parents. Use this information to refine and improve your EdTech integration strategy.
- 6. Stay current:** Stay informed about the latest developments in EdTech and continue to look for new tools and strategies that can support student learning.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PARTNER FOR YOUR EDTECH

It can be daunting begin your search for a provider for your EdTech needs. After all, depending at what kind of technology you're looking to implement and if it is a school-wide or district-wide project, you're looking at a large investment of time, money and resources.

It's best to start by looking for a partner that demonstrates a deep understanding of the education sector and experience and specialization in providing EdTech solutions. Research their reputation and track record, read online reviews, case studies, and testimonials from other clients, and even request references to get first-hand accounts of their experience working with the company. It's also important to evaluate the level of customer support offered by the potential partner, including availability of technical support, training, and ongoing maintenance and support. And of course, you'll want to consider the cost and value of the solutions being solutions offered by the potential partner and ensure that they are fair, within your budget, and meet all of your needs.

PARTNER WITH PARMETECH FOR YOUR EDTECH NEEDS

Choosing the right partner for your educational technology needs requires careful research, evaluation, and due diligence. With the right partner, you can ensure that you are getting the right solutions to meet your needs and enhance student outcomes. If you're interested in learning more about EdTEch and the benefits these tools can bring to today's modern learning environments, let us help you! Parmetech is a premier classroom technology partner and we're excited to help our customers enhance their classroom experiences with world-class technology products, software, and services. We are here to consult, communicate, and craft the best solution for your specific needs and create a unique classroom for your teachers. We recognize that education technology is not 'one size fits all' – we can help you choose the technology that is going to help you achieve your specific goals and objectives while giving you the most return on your investment.



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