

BLENDED LEARNING BASICS



Characteristics of successful Blended Learning students:

- Embraces new experiences
- Pays attention to deadlines and due dates
- Collaborates with classmates in person and online
- Asks for help when needed
- Enjoys technology
- Logs into class daily for announcements and updates
- Demonstrates resiliency when faced with obstacles
- Enjoys working independently
- Exhibits academic honesty

Blended Learning Defined:

Blended learning is a student-centered approach that combines face-to-face instruction with online lessons and discussion in order to maximize student learning outcomes.

How does Blended Learning benefit students?

Students utilize the same curriculum as in the traditional classroom, but move at their own pace. Students benefit from the independence they experience as they control their own learning. The flexible pacing of the Blended Learning classroom allows for students to grow as an independent learner while gaining college and career readiness skills.

What will I see in a Blended Learning classroom?

Students experience a high level of engagement with a variety of learning experiences while in a Blended Learning classroom. A small group of students might be working collaboratively on a project that requires application of content and critical thinking skills. Another small group of students may be independently engaged in digital lessons or practicing newly acquired skills. At the same time, another small group of students might be working directly with a teacher receiving personalized instruction that best meets the needs of that particular small group. All digital and small group lessons are closely integrated with face-to-face instruction.

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Why do students love it?

Students embrace Blended Learning as it offers an opportunity to control their own education. If a student needs to review a lesson, it is available online to revisit as many times as needed. On the other hand, if a student is catching on quickly, the next lesson or extension activity is available right away. Students also have the opportunity to frequently meet with their instructor for lessons and activities that meet their instructional needs.

Why do educators love it?

Blended Learning uses the same curriculum, assessments, and standards as traditional classrooms. However, the Blended Learning approach allows teachers to meet with small groups of students in order to easily differentiate instruction. Opportunities for extra support as well as extension activities are seamlessly embedded into the Blended Learning model.

What role does technology play in Blended Learning?

Technology allows teachers and students to make the most out of their time by offering the tools they need at just the right moment. Through purposeful online instruction, teachers receive real-time data that helps design lessons to best meet the needs of the students. By incorporating technology, students work collaboratively and cooperatively on meaningful projects. In a Blended Learning classroom, technology is used frequently to allow for the most effective use of student and teacher time.

Blended Learning is NOT the same as:

- Students working in isolation
- Passive learning
- 100% online
- Device-centered
- Whole class technology integration
- Flipped learning
- Replacing teachers with digital content

Where to go for more information (click for links):

- [Blended Learning and Technology Integration](#) video
- [Blended Learning Universe](#)
- [Christensen Institute](#)
- [Edutopia Blended Learning](#) video