



Five Ways of Making BYOD Work in the Classroom

BYOD can seem like inviting chaos in the classroom. But there are some simple approaches to help make the practice run smoothly.

1. Create a Culture of Curiosity

Getting students interested in learning means letting them seek their own answers to problems. While this process can take more time than simply pointing students to a source, the act of investigating builds essential skills. But even more important is allowing curiosity to blossom, so that the academic process doesn't stifle inquiry. If a student has a question and uses their device to find an answer, this may—ideally—lead to more questions: which is great! Oftentimes these new questions are sharper and can lead to deeper learning. This said, the questions should still further the overall objective of the class. So use a tight leash yet a loose grip!

2. A Celebration of Collaboration

Everyday, adults use devices to connect to others for a variety of tasks. Students have the same drive and expectations. But they need to learn the same rules of digital citizenship as adults and maintain a professional, respectful level of interaction in their communications. Apps such as Evernote and Google Docs help keep students organized and on-task, resulting in more effective collaboration.

3. More Responsive Feedback

The age of simply raising your hand and offering feedback are gone. Now students can interact and comment to classroom presentations and projects in real-time using their devices. There are a number of websites such as [Kahoot](#) and [Poll Everywhere](#) allow teachers to conduct polls and surveys during presentations and use the responses immediately, increasing engagement and participation.

4. Capturing Ideas

Students often come up with some of their best ideas after school, before school, or at various points during their day. Blogging apps such as [Blogger](#) and [Wordpress](#) make it simple to put down thoughts in rough format to expand upon later. Students can even upload inspiration such as photographs (or pictures of whiteboard notes, for example).

5. Pictures Worth a Thousand Words

Students can not only contribute to classroom projects and discussions with words, but with pictures. Sites such as [Shutterfly](#) allow free private websites for teachers and students to easily share photos and videos with each other or even parents. The ability to share photographs is a great way to exchange visual perspectives from field trips or collecting data for science projects, for example. Individual devices make this process simple and immediate.