

## **Remix Teaching through Blended Learning**

Transforming Minds: Engaging Learners Through Authentic Assessment:  
The Arts & Technology Conference 2013 Oakland Schools  
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**Remix** – to take something that exists and modify it to produce something new.

**Blended Learning** – the use of technology to deliver content (flipped, rotational, face-to-face, etc).

**Remix Teaching through Blended Learning** – Modifying the way students are taught through the use of technology in the classroom.

**Learning Management System (LMS)** – online platform to house resources (presentations, lessons, assignments, weblinks, videos) for teachers and students to access for class.

- Moodle – [www.moodle.org](http://www.moodle.org) - free LMS that works through school server (many schools use this platform). It is a little clunky, but it is what I use because my school supports it.
- Edmodo – [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com) - free LMS that is open to all who use it (others can join your class and you can join in others to exchange resources). Like facebook in interface.
- Schoology – [www.schoology.com](http://www.schoology.com) - free LMS that is most like facebook.
- There are other LMS out there; these are ones that I and colleagues of mine have used.

### **Why use an LMS?**

- Graded Assessments – pre and post testing can be done with ease to document student growth. Informal surveys and formative assessments can also help drive instruction to meet student needs.
- Social Media – [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) (great place to connect with #artsed teachers); [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) (great place to connect with #artsed teachers) – SM can be more than sharing pics of your lunch or following a Kardashian, it can be a place where learning happens through a collective PLN (Professional Learning Network).
- We model proper behavior and the power of SM in a positive way, while also eliminating irritating issues of our jobs (no-name papers, late work) and meeting student needs (paced learning through differentiation).

### **How to use an LMS?**

- Design with the End in Mind (backwards design – Marzano).
- Organize the course as it relates to content standards and benchmarks; create lessons and assessments with the following questions in mind:
  1. What do I want students to learn?
  2. How will I know that they have learned it?
  3. What will I do when they have learned it?
  4. What will I do when they have not learned it?
- Analyze results within LMS (through assignment turn in and instant grading of pre-post testing (summative assessments))

- Ask for feedback (use Google Forms to survey students and parents – also great for formative assessments)

### **What do you need?**

- Computer and Internet Access. This can be done with a 1:2 or 3 ratio, but 1:1 is ideal. iPads, Laptops, iPod touches can all be effective in implementing an LMS. If you do not have funds, look for grants. I have a prezi on grant writing on my website.
- Understand and follow AUP (Acceptable Use Policy) for your district. Make sure the sites you use are approved.
- Training and Administrative support – I use Moodle because our district supports it and there are people I can turn to if something goes awry. There is a lot of support online for every LMS and most learning comes from doing it.
- Willingness to try – trial and error works best to see what is going to work for your class. Patience is key. There is a lot of front end work, but once it is done, it is done.

### **How has Blended Learning Remixed my Teaching?**

- My students are more productive. I am more productive. They no longer have to wait for me to move on and I do not have to wait for them to collect assignments. The pacing works for both of us and I am able to differentiate what I do accordingly.
- There are clearer expectations for what is to be done in class. Students have a touchstone to rely on when I am rotating around the room. I am no longer the only place to get information and students have a more direct understanding of what they need to do because the information is given to them from more than just one person (me).
- Students are more active in their learning. They know where to get resources and turn work in for me to assess. Instead of managing 150 papers or tests or lugging papers around trying to figure out who didn't put their name on it, everything is turned in with a timestamp and account name. I can work with students more effectively because of this as well as the results of various summative and formative assessments that are used to drive instruction.

### **Final Thoughts....**

- You are probably blending technology in your class in some way already, so this is not completely new.
- It doesn't happen overnight, so make a small goal and add on accordingly.
- There are people to help you get started (twitter is a great place to start).