

Sumner Teachers--

Welcome back! This is definitely a new experience for all of us. Throughout this past week I have done some research on various aspects of remote instruction in an effort to best support you and our students as we work through our current situation. Here are some thoughts, advice, and resources for you to consider if you have not already.

I think it is important for each of you to approach distance learning similar to the way you approach the beginning of the school year. Building a sense of community is key at this time. Relationships (student to teacher and student to student) need to be emphasized within this new way of communicating and learning. Community over curriculum, honestly. It will create a space where learning can actually occur.

Think through what that will look like for you and your students. A tool that you might consider using to begin this might be Flipgrid.

<https://info.flipgrid.com/>

### [Flipgrid | Empower Every Voice](https://info.flipgrid.com/)

Empower every voice. Flipgrid is simple. Engage and empower every voice in your classroom or community by recording and sharing short, awesome videos ... together!

[info.flipgrid.com](https://info.flipgrid.com/)

Flipgrid will also support academic instruction. You are going to need to assign synchronous and asynchronous activities. Flipgrid is a tool that supports asynchronous learning. A specific assignment can be given and students can create their video responses by a designated time. I have seen this work well in Sumner classrooms this year and I believe it could be a great tool to utilize within our current circumstances as well.

Here is a link to a blog that discusses Flipgrid. <https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/6-tech-tools-2018/>



### [6 Ed Tech Tools to Try in 2018 | Cult of Pedagogy](https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/6-tech-tools-2018/)

1. Flipgrid. flipgrid.com. OK, so this one I have to get out of the way first. Even though I don't think Flipgrid actually needs any more attention than it's gotten lately, there's just no way I'm writing a post about up-and-coming tech tools without including it. For me, this has been hands-down the most talked about tech tool of the past year, and for good reason.

[www.cultofpedagogy.com](http://www.cultofpedagogy.com)

It also contains a link to a podcast if you would prefer to listen. If you don't already know about this podcast, I would highly recommend it. You can search Cult of Pedagogy on whatever podcast platform you use. You can check out the weekly topic and listen if it is applicable.

Also here is a link to a brief intro video to Flipgrid on youtube. <https://youtu.be/aLzX13jw7bw>. There multiple other videos available as well if this particular one isn't your jam.

If you will be using Zoom for synchronous activities, you might want to ensure that those activities are recorded and linked in order for students that experience technology glitches or have extenuating circumstances to have access. They will then feel supported and included in the classes experience even though it won't be live. This should then also increase the sense of community and agency in students.

Here is a link to a brief Zoom tutorial on youtube <https://youtu.be/9guqRELB4dg>

Teaching remotely also should be as conversational as possible. I would encourage you to consider the last time you listened to a webcast. How many times did you check you phones or minimize the window on you computers to multitask while you "listened" to the presentation?

If this happens with Sumner students, they are not gaining much. Teachers, you should aim to structure your lessons, lectures, and notes to incorporate conversation, choice, interaction, and movement as appropriate to keep our students engaged.

I would also encourage all teachers to be accessible and "visible" to students. That can mean a lot of things. If you have the time, short individual phone calls parents and students would be amazing. Also, students will learn more from a video that is self-authored that includes your voice verses a sourced video from an unknown person on YouTube. It is important that students see you as often as possible throughout the duration of remote instruction.

Remote learning will take time to get used to. It is for sure a paradigm shift from traditional classroom instruction, but this can also be an amazing opportunity for both teachers and students. Encourage patience and pragmatism as the shift occurs. When you are in doubt, build on the small wins you are having within the this new platform remote instruction.

Right now your students may be curious and excited to see what this type of learning means. I want them to stay excited, but that will depend on the type of assignments they are assigned and the approach and structure of the remote learning that is presented.

Feel free to reach out with any questions. I am happy to share any other knowledge or resources I have during this time. I am continuing to do research related to this topic and will continue to do my best to support you.

All the best,

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