

Teacher Network Online Courses

Courses for Teacher Efficiency

Adolescent Literacy

The goal of this online course is to help teachers create life-long readers who are empowered as independent learners. Participants will learn strategies that promote and support adolescent literacy in the contemporary urban classroom. The needs of unmotivated and special needs students will be considered.

Aligning Standards, Curriculum, and Assessment

As teachers attempt to align curriculum, assessment, and instruction, they must begin by looking at the big picture and finding the over-riding ideas set forth by their district's standards. By thinking about the end result and imagining various levels of proficiency, they begin to define their instructional goals. Participants will be able to identify the content and process standards and the curriculum for which they are accountable, and will learn how to plan for aligning standards to curriculum. They will be able to design alternative assessment tools to monitor student achievement.

Becoming a Professional

Teaching can be an isolating profession. Becoming a true professional involves reflection, engaging in dialogue with colleagues, and developing a portfolio of personal best practices. This course will guide you along the path to true professionalism.

Classroom Management

A well-managed classroom is an environment in which students know what is expected of them, materials are stimulating and accessible, and teaching methods are appropriate to the students' learning styles and needs. Successful management also depends on the teacher's ability to recognize, interpret and respond to the events that occur daily in the classroom. The most effective teachers actively organize their time, space, materials and students to create and maintain an environment that is truly conducive to learning. In Classroom Management, participants will explore creative learning environments. They will identify, practice, and implement important classroom practices and procedures that promote desired behaviors.

Families as Partners

As the role of the school grows in children's lives, it is increasingly important for families and teachers to work together for the welfare of the child. Teachers need students' families to share in the responsibility and accountability for the outcome of their children's education. It is incumbent upon educators to make this partnership possible. Participants will be able to identify the needs of parents, students, and schools, and learn ways to communicate effectively with families. They will explore strategies to involve families creatively in their classrooms.

Identifying Resources

Super-teaching means researching, making contacts, arranging classroom visits, and organizing curriculum related trips. Creative approaches to identifying resources can yield

information and free and/or low-cost materials. The best classroom materials should not be confined to the annual book order. This course focuses on the ability of teachers to utilize a variety of resources around them. Employing these resources supports teaching and learning in the classroom.

Strategic Planning

"If you fail to plan, you plan to fail." This can be especially true in teaching.

Planning is absolutely essential to the smooth operation of a classroom. Teachers must set goals for themselves and their students, but should also be prepared to adjust those goals as they come to understand the needs and abilities of their students through ongoing assessment. Participants will look at the elements of planning and will identify planning resources. They will also explore ways to better manage their own time and reflect on their practice.

Teaching Methods for Diverse Learners

Using Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences, Teaching Methods examines how to use the curriculum as a conduit for identifying and maximizing the best talents of our students. Course participants will explore the many ways people learn, beginning with their own strengths and weaknesses. Participants will then create lessons that match students' learning styles and encourage the development of untapped potential. By identifying and capitalizing on these differences in the classroom, educators can reduce frustration and produce more successful students.

Teaching Strategies for English Language Learners

English Language Learners (ELL) are students for whom English is not their primary language. Their first language (L1) is not used in instruction and the instructor need not know the students' native languages. Instructional methods of teaching language skills vary, depending on the district or school mandates. Some classes focus on literature to better prepare students for the exit exams and their transition into mainstream ELA (English Language Arts), while others require that the ELL teacher collaborate with subject area teachers to reinforce content and concepts. Students in many school districts must pass proficiency tests in order to "score out" of ELL and enter mainstream ELA classes.

Courses Available for the How to Use the Internet in Your Classroom

The Tech-Savvy Teacher

Becoming a Tech-Savvy Teacher is designed to provide educators with a working knowledge of what is current and valuable on the Internet as it applies to their teaching and techniques to integrate technology into their curriculum.

Information Literacy

This course introduces teachers to the concept of information literacy, the skill of being able to examine and appraise sources of information--now mostly found online.

Participants will learn how to find quality material on the web, identify some of the risks involved with open sources of information like the Internet, and learn how to evaluate a web site for authenticity.

Internet Projects for the Classroom

How can we use the resources and capability of the Internet to enhance our classroom curriculum? We present three types of Internet-based projects for the classroom: email collaboration, virtual field trips, and WebQuests. Participants will also view teacher-created model projects and uncover resources to help them create Internet-based projects of their own.

All About WebQuests

This course will take participants through an overview to WebQuests, a dynamic, inquiry-based Internet project for the classroom. Participants will create their own WebQuest outline, as well as come away with a host of new ideas and strategies to create a complete WebQuest on their own.

Going Public: Writing & Publishing on the Web

This course will examine ways in which students can easily use the web as a literacy tool, including publishing their writing, collaborating with each other, and sharing their stories with the world. Through three different forms of online media, blogs, wikis, and online maps, we will examine new forms of digital literacy in which online publishing becomes an accessible and powerful tool for the classroom.

Stop, Look & Listen: Digital Audio-Visual Resources

Participants will explore new audio-visual resources found today on the web: digital images, podcasting, and streaming video. We will discuss how to utilize these materials in the classroom, across grade levels and subject areas. Teachers will acquire the tools necessary to find quality content online and become savvy users of multimedia resources for the classroom.

Internet Safety

The goal of this course is to increase both student and teacher awareness of some of the dangers that are inherent with web use. The Internet is a powerful educational tool that is here to stay, but ensuring that students both remain safe and broaden their awareness of the online world is crucial. We will examine some strategies and explore resources that demonstrate how to impart Internet safety to students and teachers alike.

Digital Storytelling

This course introduces teachers to digital storytelling, a new media literacy tool for the classroom. We define digital storytelling, and explore ways in which to compose web-based digital stories. Different web sites and media platforms are discussed, student digital stories are introduced, and the use of digital storytelling is discussed as a strategy for student learning and engagement.