ThinkCERCA™

Designing Scalable Blended Literacy Programs: What Administrators Need to Know

Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of Blended Learning
- Examples of Blended Learning
- Barriers and Successes
- Non-Negotiables
- Final Thoughts

Join the Conversation Online!

- Follow along with **@ThinkCERCA** on Twitter
- Share your thoughts using **#LiteracyWebinar**

Kavita Venkatesh, Ph.D., Facilitator

- Former teacher and administrator
- Director of Professional Learning and School Design at ThinkCERCA
- Universal Design for Learning Adjunct Professor and Consultant

Introductions

Mike Martin, Ed.D.

- Teacher and administrator for 18 years
- Adjunct Professor and Consultant
- *Blended Learning with Technology* author
- Husband to one, father to four

*"My goal in education is to create unique, engaging learning experiences that challenge **all** of our students and prepare them to be successful in the 21st century economy."*

Chris Margolin

- 12 year teacher and instructional coach
- Curriculum Specialist for Secondary ELA, AP, and College in the High Schools
- Lover of linguistics, MLA format, and the art of punctuation, and 16th-19th c British Poetry

"There is no limit to the forms of writing that children will experiment with… [t]he teacher can provide the framework for many written exercises, but the substance of the children's responses must be drawn from their life and imagination" - from Teaching the Unteachable by Herbert Kohl (1967)

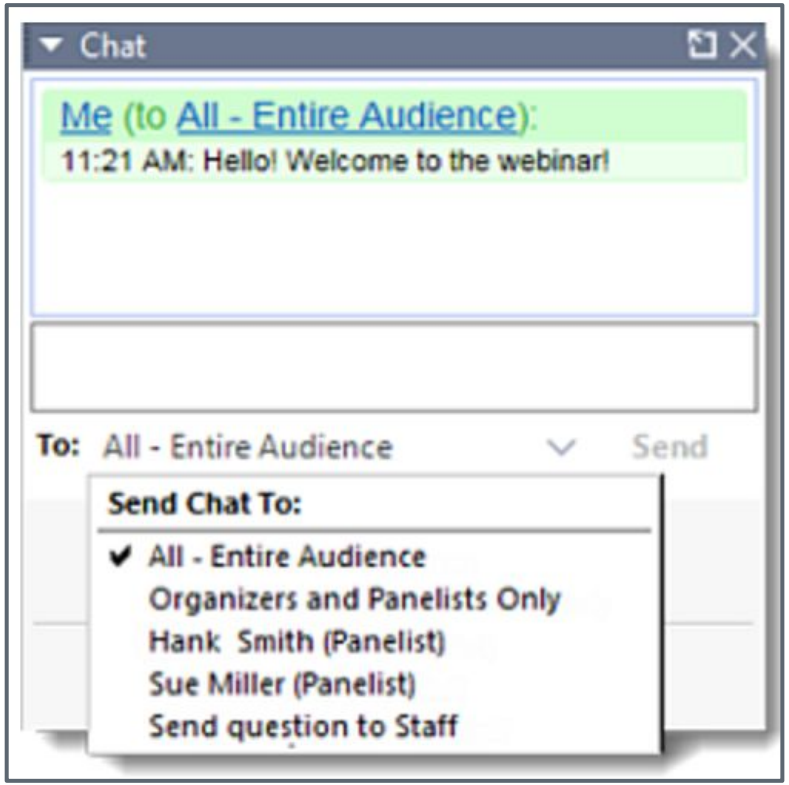
Steve Glaeser

- Former teacher and Personalized Blended Learning Coordinator
- School Success Manager at ThinkCERCA
- Advocate for sustainable, healthy teaching

“As long as you do what is best for the kids, as teachers, we cannot go wrong.”

Have Questions?

- Type them into the GoToWebinar Panel
- We will answer questions at the end of the webinar



Overview of Blended Learning

What Does Blended Learning Mean to You?

Mike

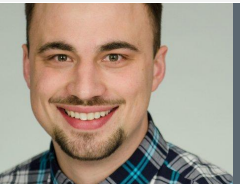
- Organic utilization of a device
- Purposefully blended technology
- New learning experiences and opportunities

What Does Blended Learning Mean to You?

Chris

- The art of creating a partnership between technology, teacher, the tangible and student
- Allows students to control their own learning

What Does Blended Learning Mean to You?



Steve

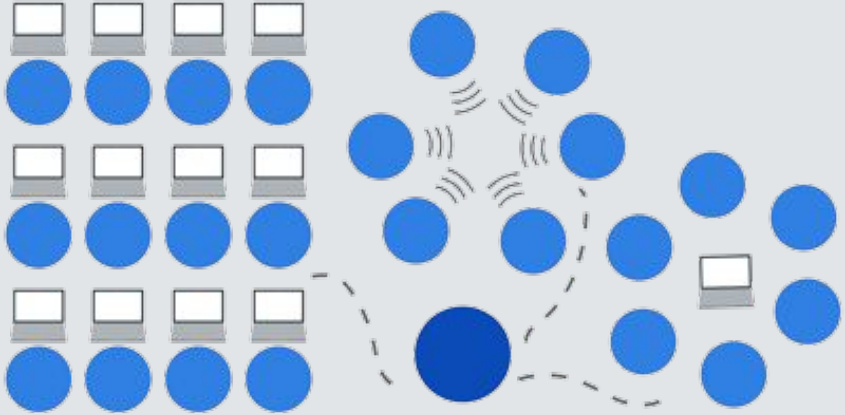
- Utilizing innovative tools for engaged instruction and student ownership
- Something that teachers have been doing for over a century

Examples of Blended Learning

A Few Examples

Mike

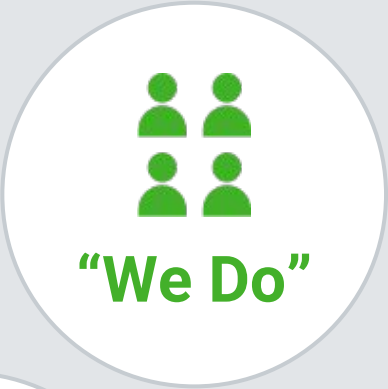
- Flex Model
- Flipped Classroom
- Station Rotation
- A.R.T.



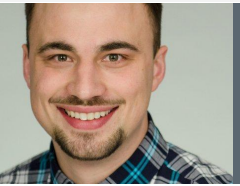
A Few Examples

Chris

- Largest technology based adoption
- Allows students to control their own learning



A Few Non-Examples



Steve

- It isn’t a room full of students working silently on iPads 1:1
- It isn’t teachers developing disdain for one another because of a challenge to check out Chromebook cart
- It isn’t adding one more initiative without a structured plan
- It isn’t spending budget dollars without planning thoughtfully for the impact

Barriers and Successes

Barriers

Mike

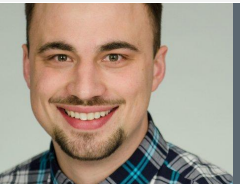
- **Individual capacity and technology skills** → Get to know staff, provide with integration diagnostic tool
- **Lack of a plan** → Work with teams to create a professional development plan for blended learning
- **Lack of knowledge on digital tools** → Professional development days, staff meetings, web videos to support usage of a technology tool

Barriers

Chris

- **Multiple blended learning curricula** → addressing the issues through coaching, mini-trainings

Barriers



Steve

- **Capacity** → for every stakeholder in the a learning community
  - **Students** → Empowering successful blended learning
  - **Teachers** → Providing healthy observation opportunities
  - **Administrators** → Developing vision and backwards design
  - **Family/Community** → Transforming with our teachers and learners

Non-Negotiables

Non-Negotiables

Mike

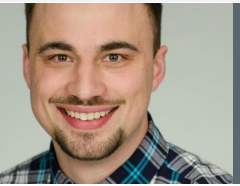
- The device is merely a tool and does not replace the teacher!
- The majority of the learning experiences should occur in the classroom with the teacher.

Non-Negotiables

Chris

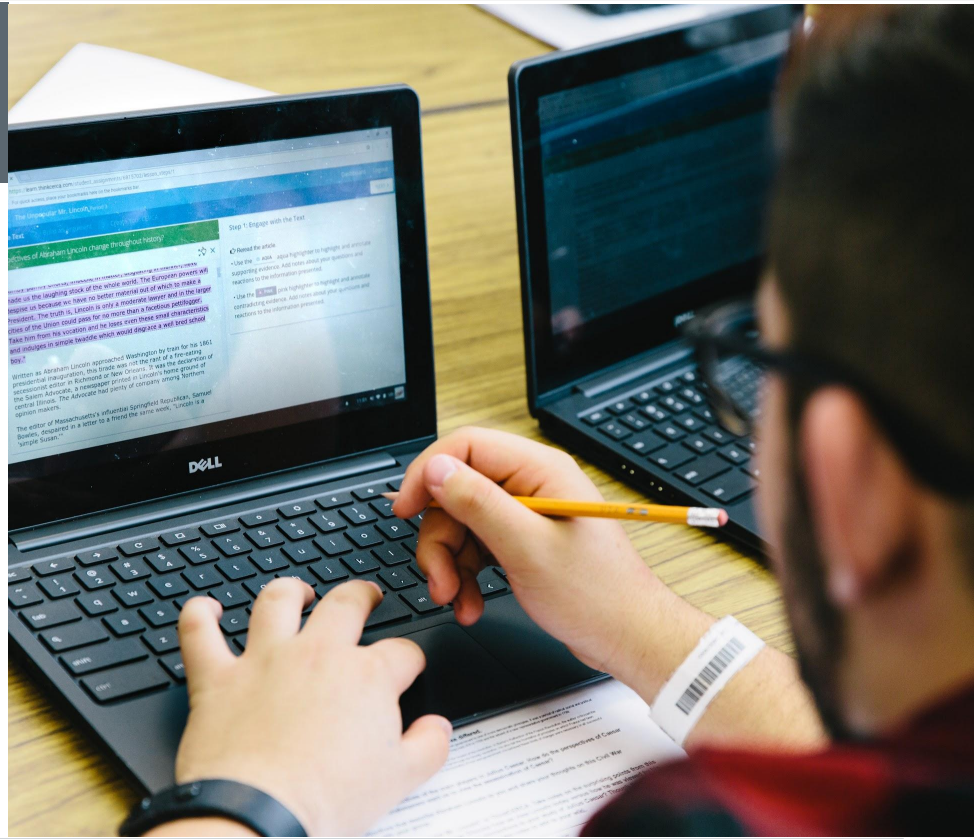
- Be willing to “let go” of lessons before and learn new technologies
- Everyone must be better informed on how to use devices and platforms

Non-Negotiables



Steve

- Being able to understand what **healthy** 21st century learning looks like
- Being able to effectively set boundaries and expectations through **modeling** and routines
- Acknowledging that blended learning takes time and, therefore, long-term **planning** is important



Final Thoughts

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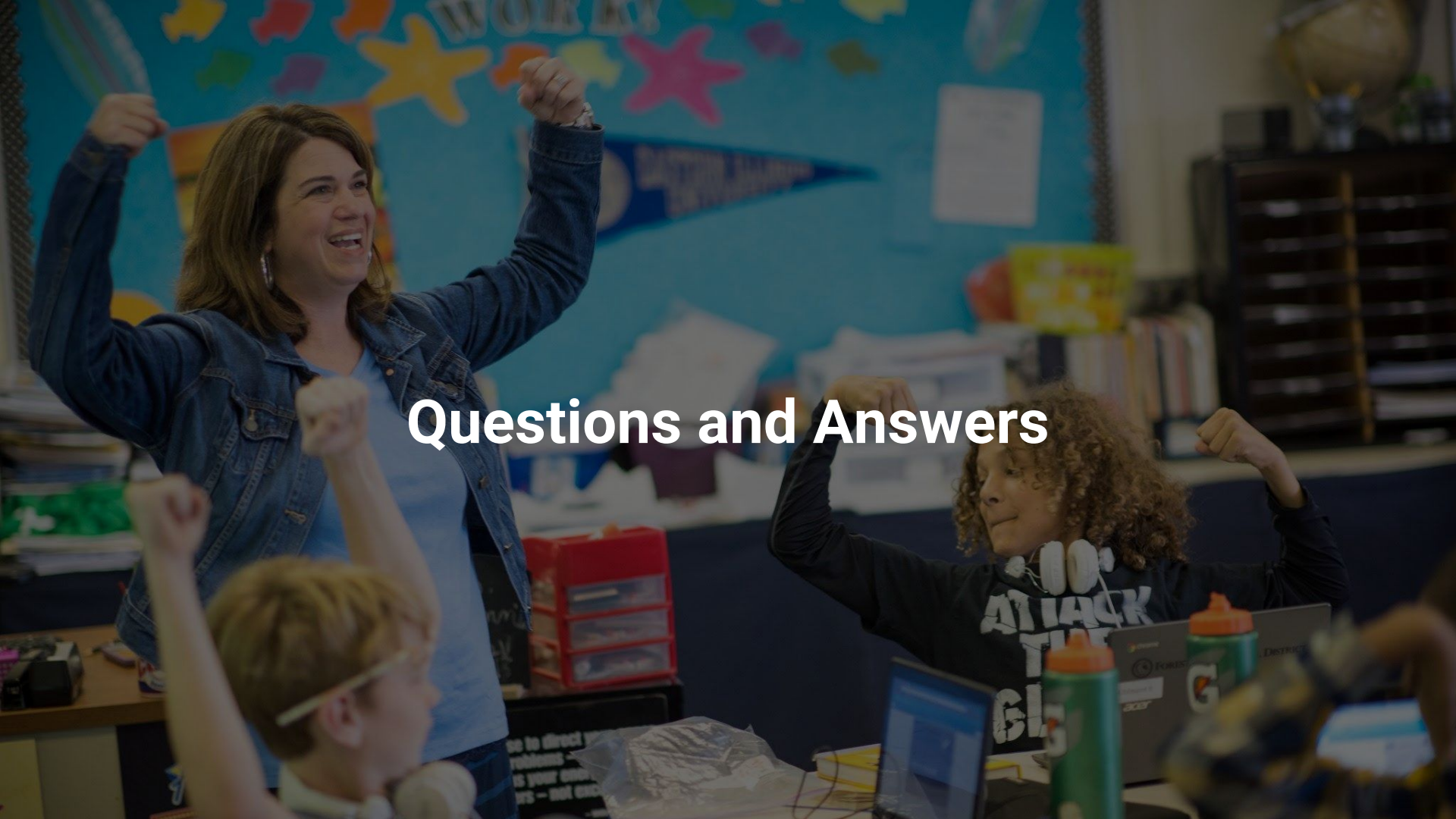
- The teacher is the facilitator of the classroom and cannot be replaced.
- Content, not the device, is king!
- Research clearly states that the device should only be used 30-40% of the time.
- A word of caution.
- 1984 vs A Brave New World.

Final Thoughts

- Understand your capacity as a school leader, educator, or learning stakeholder first.
- From there, build out your plan for where you and your team can be in the quarter(s), semester(s), and school year(s) ahead.
- And along the way, recognize that you needn't be afraid to FAIL FAST.



Questions and Answers

Thank You

ThinkCERCA™

Spark Courageous Thinking in Every Subject

Personalized Literacy Platform for Grades 4-12