PREPARING TO Teach IN A VIRTUAL SEMESTER

Last semester, we were all abruptly launched into a virtual environment. For DCPS teachers, that meant completely reimagining their classrooms and how they interact with students. This fall, we return to a virtual setting with a lot of lessons learned from spring 2020.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM SPRING 2020: IMPROMPTU LESSONS

1. **Time Management:** Teachers must be prepared to adjust their pacing and time management skills to accommodate the asynchronous nature of online learning.
2. **Clarity:** Without the presence of the teacher, clarity is essential for students to be able to follow an assignment's instructions and avoid possible misconceptions.
3. **Virtual Resources:** Look around for virtual resources that can be used to support learning. This includes webinars, tutorials, and online educational platforms.
4. **Student Engagement:** Teachers must find creative ways to engage students virtually. This could include group discussions, virtual ice cream socials, and other interactive activities.
5. **Feedback:** Provide timely and constructive feedback to students. This is crucial for their learning and development.
6. **Universal Design:** Different standards of universal design are essential in a virtual classroom. Your school could have a specific platform for distributing materials, schedules for (asynchronous) classes, and means of recording and comparing students' ideas.

Though virtual learning is different from in-person learning, it can be a powerful tool for teaching. Teachers who are able to adapt and embrace the online environment can create enriching and meaningful learning experiences for their students.

GWTeach? Visit us online: gwteach.gwu.edu

GWTEACH BIRTHDAYS

We will meet at the beginning of the semester to discuss this text through the lens of education. Every month we will hold a reading and discussion group to explore how we can take action to support the anti-racist work of our community.

GW LISTENS

GW Listens is accessible by text at 202-902-9392 of the semester.

The GW Listens hotline will be open from 9pm to 11pm ET/ 3pm CT: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, beginning September 27th – 29th. This hotline is the support hotline for the GW community. Youth members of the GW community are invited to speak with student volunteers who can provide safe spaces for all students and individuals who need to talk.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Thursday, September 3rd from 6-7pm:** GWTEACH SPEAKS: Video Series on Anti-Racist Practice and Policy in Education
- **Thursday, September 10th from 7-8pm:** READING & DISCUSSION GROUP: Antiracist Pedagogy: Teaching with the Heart
- **Thursday, September 16th:** PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY: UTeach Innovation and Impact Summit
- **Thursday, September 23rd:** GIVE TO GWTEACH: Sign up with us and spread the word.