TECH BYTES

ACCESSIBILITY

https://edu.google.com/why-google/accessibility/

The ABC's of Chromebook accessibility

Accessibility settings are built into all Chromebooks, and more are available through Chrome extensions and apps. No need to change settings when you switch devices because they sync to each student by default. Here are a few useful accessibility settings to get you started:

Visual aids: Increase the size of browser content by pressing Ctrl + Plus to increase, Ctrl + Minus to decrease, Ctrl + 0 to reset. The rest of the desktop is unaffected. You can enable high contrast mode by pressing Ctrl + Search button + H on the Chromebook keyboard. Adjust your font face and size, and install Chrome extensions for custom color support.

Mono Audio: For users who have limited hearing in one ear, there's a Mono Audio option to play the same sound through both speakers. Turn this feature on in Accessibility settings.

Spoken feedback: For users who need synthesized speech on occasion, we offer Select-to-speak. When enabled, press and hold the Search key, then click or drag to select content to be read aloud, and press Ctrl to silence. Change the word-by-word highlight color in Select-to-speak settings. We also have the ChromeVox screen reader that reads all text aloud, a free, browser-based screen reader that users can access from any device and built directly for ChromeOS.

The 123's of G Suite Accessibility

G Suite is a set of tools that help students and teachers collaborate in real time and give personalized feedback. It's also paperless and accessible from anywhere. Built into our G Suite tools are many accessibility features:

Slides: Turn on closed captions in Slides to support students who are deaf, hard-of-hearing or ENL. Simply use Ctrl + Shift + c in ChromeOS/Windows or ⌘ + Shift + c in Mac.

Voice typing, editing and formatting: Use the mic and enable the feature to use voice typing in Docs and Slides to write and edit without a keyboard.

Visual aids: Enable high contrast themes in Gmail and browsing, and use powerful keyboard shortcuts for those who can't or don't want to use a mouse.

Collaboration: G Suite works on all different platforms including Windows, Android, iOS devices and even multiple devices at one time. You can all be on different devices and still collaborate in real time.

Braille: Use a Braille display to read and edit Docs, Sheets, Slides and Drawings.
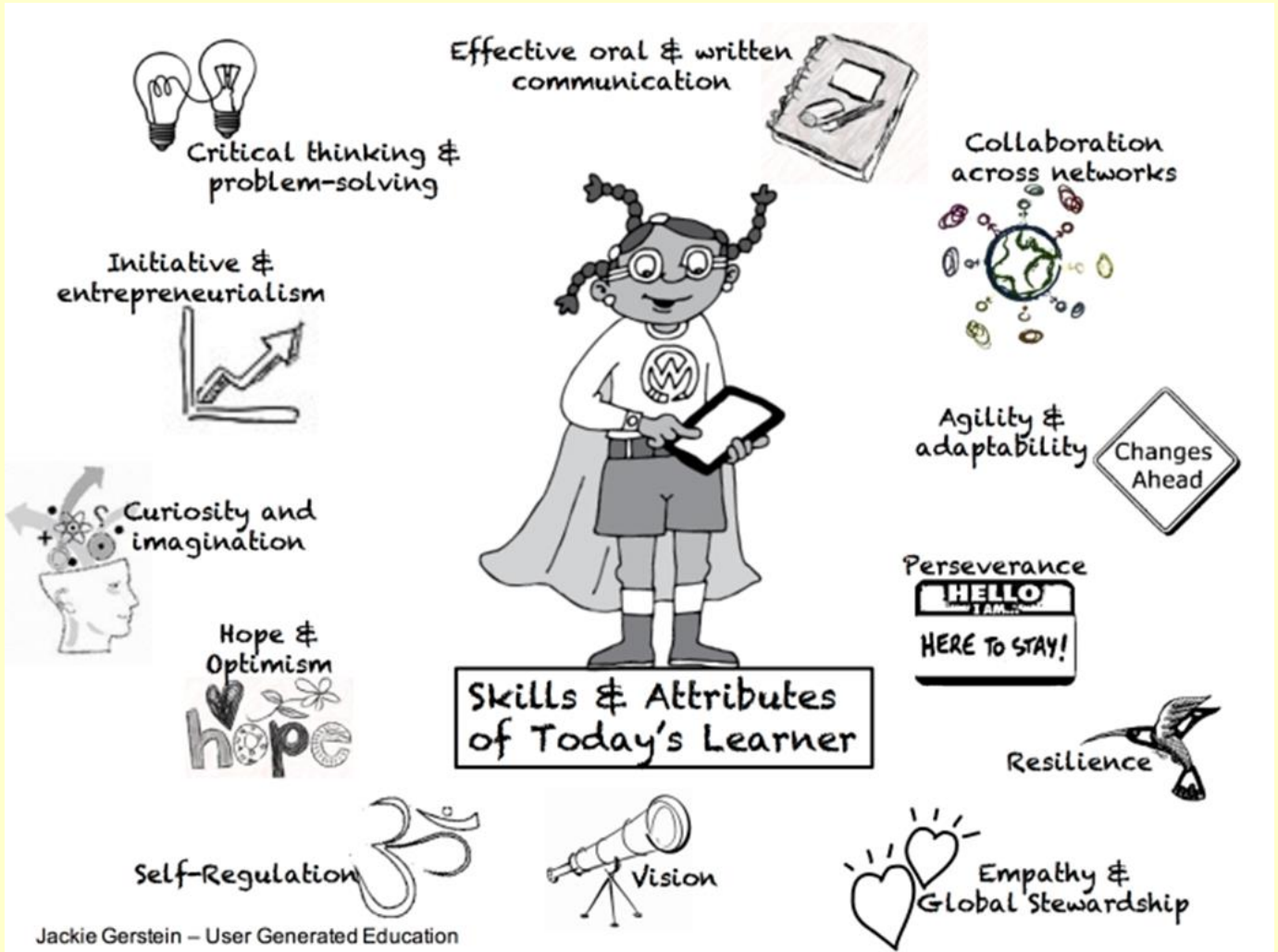
Screen reader & magnifier: Turn on the features in accessibility settings to zoom in or use the screen reader in Docs, Calendar, Sites, Classroom and even in other browsers.

VidReader

https://www.vidreader.com/

VidReader creates a searchable transcript of any YouTube video that is narrated in English. the transcript is not only searchable but all of the keywords are hyperlinked to timestamps in the video.

VidReader How To Video

Skills & Attributes of Today's Learner

- Critical thinking & problem-solving
- Effective oral & written communication
- Collaboration across networks
- Initiative & entrepreneurialism
- Agility & adaptability — Changes Ahead
- Curiosity and imagination
- Perseverance — HELLO I AM HERE TO STAY!
- Hope & Optimism — hope
- Resilience
- Self-Regulation
- Vision
- Empathy & Global Stewardship

Jackie Gerstein – User Generated Education

Celebrating National American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month

November is Native American Month and Alaska Native Heritage Month. Estimates of the population of the Western Hemisphere prior to the arrival of Europeans range from 8 million to more than 100 million. Cultures were as varied as the stationary Mayas in the Yucatan and the nomadic Plains Indians in North America. Explore Native American culture with the following lessons, activities, and resources.

Resources

Education World: Dramatizing Folktales, Legends, and Myths (Grades 3-8): Students read and act out folktales from various Native American cultures.

https://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/00-2/lp2209.shtml

Library of Congress: Indian Boarding Schools (Grades 6-8): Students will be able to:gain respect for differences in cultures; analyze primary documents; develop an understanding of issues related to the forced acculturation of American Indians into the American culture; and examine different perspectives of the "Indian problem" in relation to the education of American Indian children. http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/lessons/indianschools/

Teacher Vision: Native American Music: Call-and-Response (Grades 5-7): Students will identify and describe a call-and-response form as used in "0 Hal'Lwe; Students will identify the use of the pentatonic scale in "0 Hal'Lwe;" Male students will perform "0 Hal'Lwe" in call-and-response style with drum accompaniment (one note per beat); Finally, female students will perform the dance, changing dance movements as cued aurally (in call-and-response sections). https://www.teachervision.com/native-americans/native-american-music-call-response

Special Days and Observances in November

Love puzzles? Want a great writing challenge? Enjoy weird math facts, or want to honor a particular group of Americans? November is a month loaded with weeks of opportunities for celebrating almost anything that interests your family. Gifted children may be particularly excited about some of the unique November celebrations that will expand their knowledge while challenging their memory, thinking skills, or imagination.

5-Minute Film Festival: Turning Bystanders Into Upstanders Against Bullying

https://www.edutopia.org/blog/film-festival-bullying-prevention-upstanders

Transforming bystanders into "upstanders" is an effective strategy for bullying prevention. This collection of videos and resources will show students how to speak out when they see someone being bullied.

Customize text size and position for captions in Google Slides

Quick launch summary
You can now personalize caption text size and position while presenting in Google Slides. These features can help make captions easier to read, like ensuring all audience members can view captions in a large room. Or, you could make your text smaller to maximize the number of words on screen at once.

https://gsuiteupdates.googleblog.com/2019/10/more-caption-options-slides.html
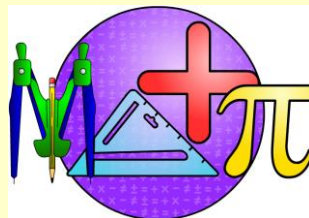
Bring Voice Beyond The Screen

Empower student and teacher voice by making it easier than ever to listen to each other and build conversations in bytes. Video demands your focus and time to consume. This limits the potential of voice. Podcasting makes voice more convenient and approachable than ever before. Synth is an audio/video recording and publishing platform that is designed for teachers and students of all age levels. For many teachers, creating a system of learning around the 4C's is critical to creating an engaging digital classroom. When we think of Communication, Critical Thinking, Creativity, and Collaboration one of the best things you can do is ask your students to explore the world of audio and video. When we think of our students, we describe them as being auditory, visual, or kinesthetic learners. All three of these learning styles are extremely present in podcasting. Most important when we create a curriculum with Bloom's Taxonomy in mind, we remember that the highest level of learning is to be able to teach back a subject that we have just learned. By creating short-form audio or video podcasts, we are making sure that we are addressing all learning styles, all four C's and reaching to the top of Blooms with each and every lesson. Plus … Podcasting is FUN!

"I Hate Math" – Ways to Instill a Love of Math in Kids

Joy and enthusiasm are absolutely essential for learning to happen. Brain studies have shown that children's level of stress can impact their learning and memory. Math can be a stressor for many children.
Check out the Parent Toolkit's tips to help develop your child's love of math further.

Math negativity usually starts early, when children are exposed to powerful myths about math. The biggest myth being that math skills are inherited and better in boys than girls. Many believe that if their parents did not do well in math, they won't either. Whether math negativity comes from stereotypes, low self-expectations, developmental lag in building skills, or fear of mistakes, the consequences of math negativity can build up. The good news is that all children have the potential to achieve success in math if they believe that their perseverance can make them better, and parents can make a huge difference. Read more……

12 Ways to Bring STEM to Your Classroom
https://www.oercommons.org/authoring/48932-12-ways-to-bring-stem-to-your-classroom/view

Familes Matter for STEM Learning
https://globalfrp.org/Articles/Families-Matter-for-STEM-Learning

Coding for kids: Reasons kids should get started

Years ago when all of this kids and code chatter started, you could have characterized it has hype because the whole idea was new and novel to the education system. We've officially moved beyond simply saying "coding is cool, so go do it," end of story. Instead, we are now saying, "coding is in fact cool, so go do it, but you should also go do it because you'll be rewarded as a result."

In other words, there are jobs, lots of them—and jobs that pay very well.

What makes this even better is that it's not just the jobs or the coolness, either . But also the creativity, problem solving, collaboration, communication, and other skills ripe for improvement as byproducts of kids learning to code.

Coding for kids refers to the collection of opportunities available for children to get involved in coding. As mentioned, while it might be difficult to imagine a young mind learning something so seemingly complex, it's definitely an attainable reality. Thanks to the proliferation of many coding summer camps, programs, websites, and toys, coding can be fun and digestible. Read entire article...

Digital Ways to Effectively Communicate with Parents in Multiple Languages

https://esllibrary.com/blog/digital-ways-to-effectively-communicate-with-parents-in-multiple-languages

At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.

—Jane D. Hull

Research shows that one of the best ways to help students achieve is through parent engagement and regular communication. Many schools serve diverse student populations, which means that some parents may not understand all the school communication that is only offered in English.

Form Mule is a free add-on for Google Sheets that helps teachers quickly send a personalized email in English and another language to each parent. Teachers create an email template and include the headings from a spreadsheet column to personalize that email. Create columns with the parents' names, student names, grades, or comments and the email will automatically include the information provided in the cells associated with that parent's email. To translate the email into multiple languages, add the language code listed .

WEBINARS

Personalized Professional Learning with edWeb

edWeb.net is a free professional learning network where educators can join online communities on innovative ideas and practices in education, attend live or recorded edWebinars, complete personal learning plans, and earn CE certificates towards PD hours. edWeb gives teachers, librarians, and

administrators from preK-12 the widest choice of professional learning topics – so there is something for every educator!

November Webinar Calendar

Educational Activities and Games with Flippity
https://www.flippity.net/

Educational games can be a fun way to engage students while also teaching or reviewing subject area content. These can include activities such as word searches, crossword puzzles, bingo games, flashcards, Jeopardy games, and more.

There are lots of tools online that can be used to create such activities. One creative option is to use Google Sheets templates from Flippity. This is a free website that provides a wide range of templates that you can download, fill in with your own content, and then play online through the Flippity site.

Once there you will see a grid of thumbnails showing the wide variety of interactive games and activities you can create with Flippity. New ones are added from time to time, but as of this writing, the following templates are available:

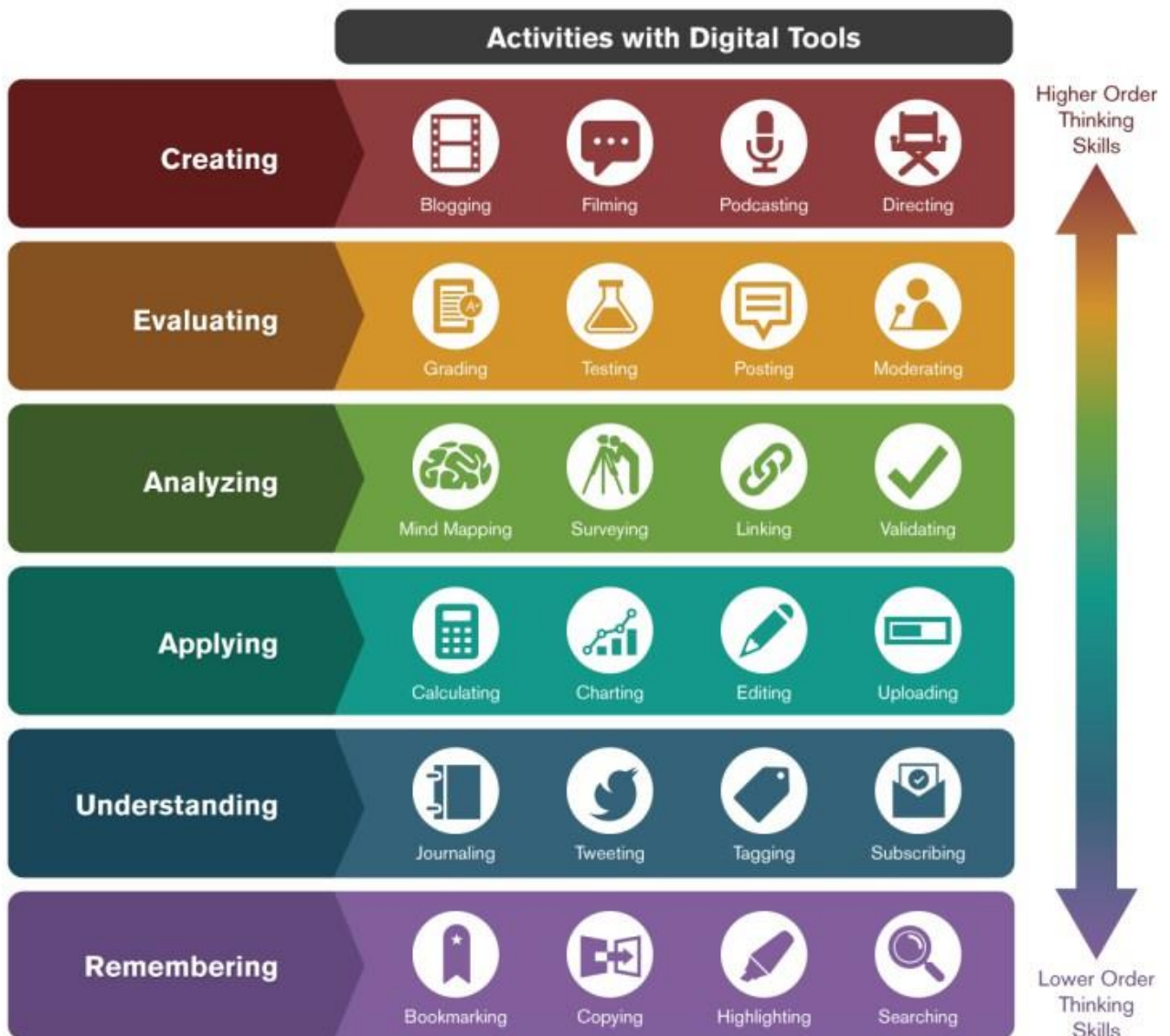# 5 Tips for Facilitating Faculty Meetings Worth Going To

If your faculty meetings run the gamut from boring to dissatisfying, it's probably time to rethink your approach. Ask most teachers about faculty meetings and they'll describe black holes of boring announcements, fruitless debate, and overwhelming agendas, ending in a deeply dissatisfying lack of meaningful conclusions or decisions. But what if these meetings were focused on learning together, building community, and solving meaningful problems? What if faculty meetings could actually inspire and engage?

What if we actually looked forward to them as a key piece of our professional self-care? Read More….

Technology Tools for Lesson Plans: Bloom's Taxonomy & Technology Integration
Technology Integration & Higher Order Thinking

[Google Podcasts](#)

Host Kasey Bell, is an edtech leader, international speaker, author, blogger, and digital learning coach for K-12 teachers. Kasey helps teachers learn how to meaningfully integrate technology in the classroom through her expert presentations, on-air coaching calls, and powerful interviews with educational leaders and discussions with student guests. Learn how to integrate technology and digital learning tools, grow as a leader, refine your instructional strategies, and transform your classroom. If you're looking for PRACTICAL ideas that you can use in class tomorrow, look no further. The Shake Up Learning Show will help you become a more dynamic teacher and Shake Up Learning in your classroom!