

A 21st Century Classroom: What Does it Look Like? (Secondary Ed.)

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What is a 21st century classroom?

A 21st century classroom is lead by a **21st century teacher**, who has a **21st century mindset**, which influences his/her teaching to meet and maintain the **21st framework and skills** which will produce **21st century life-long-leaners**.

Let's get started by taking a look into a 21st century mindset...

21st Century Mindset

The goal is to:

Prepare every student to be successful, contributing citizens in the context of *today's* global society.

Prepare every student for a world beyond the classroom.

Be committed and dedicated to all students –every student is valuable, deserves the best, and is highly capable of making a great impact in the world.

21st Century Mindset (cont.)

The goal is to:

Develop students' talents to their fullest potential (help them discover it); expect and assist them to work to the best of their abilities.

Teach students how to learn independently.

Teach parents/guardians to support /encourage their children to make the most of their talents and abilities.

21st Century Mindset (cont.)

The goal is to:

Expect schools to achieve and maintain high standards.

Encourage the convergence of art, business, creativity, innovation, engineering, mathematics, and science.

Lastly, develop strong 21st century skills.

Next, let's explore some 21st century skills.

21st Century Skills

All content areas (music, math, social studies, etc.) should implement the 21st century skills in their lessons, classroom, and practices. This includes:

Information Literacy Skills

The ability to find useful and reliable information for research.

- Example: Students are assigned laptops or iPads for educational purposes. They are allowed to take electronics with them at home, other classes, and field trips.

– *Information is in their hands.*

21st Century Skills

Collaboration Skills

The ability to work as a team (share, comprise, advocate as a group) towards success/goal.

- Example: Students work in teams or groups to brainstorm ideas, have meetings to accomplish a task or project, and present their work to others.
 - *Just like the real world, students will be working with different types of cultures, personalities, needs, goals, etc.*

21st Century Skills (cont.)

Communication Skills

The ability to properly communicate, present, and comprehend ideas (in writing and orally) to various audiences

- Example: Individually, students may present their topics/speeches, announcements, or participate in debates in front of an audience (class, event, etc.).
 - *Students are challenged to step out of their comfort zones and voice out their thoughts, opinions, etc.*

21st Century Skills (cont.)

Creativity and Innovation Skills

The ability to explore new ideas and ways to improve by using their imagination.

- Example: Take students outside of the classroom, have them dress up and get into, turn into, and BE the lesson. Or decorate the class, get into “character.” Use technology, bring in a guest speaker, the ideas are endless.
 - *Students will have a closer feel and connection to the lesson, hands on experiences, and increased motivational levels.*

21st Century Skills (cont.)

Problem Solving Skills

The ability to take risks by experimenting with new and old ideas, at the same time learning through the process until a solution is reached.

- Example: Students are involved in an extensive project or experiment. For example, research projects, interview participants, conduct survey's etc..
 - *Students will develop the ability to apply problem solving skills (steps and strategies) in other classes and their personal lives.*

21st Century Skills (cont.)

Responsible Citizen Skills

The ability to properly use technology, understand global awareness and moral capacity in/outside of the classroom.

- Example: Students receive and provide feedback, support, and collaborate with others (including other schools, programs, etc.) in and outside of the classroom.
 - *Students are exposed to diversity (cross-culturally) and learn to respect and appreciate it, discovering commonalities with the world, and using technology to explore it.*

So, what are some characteristics of a 21st century teacher?
Let's move on...

21st Century Teacher

A 21st century teacher:

1. Understands his/her content area , and makes connections with other content areas to enhance students' learning and broaden their perspectives. In addition making connections outside of the classroom (i.e., local and global issues)

(Great Teacher #1 #3, INTASC #1, Making content meaningful, #7 Planning for Instruction and Content Knowledge).

21st Century Teacher

2. Acknowledges every students' learning style, needs, and pace; teaches from multiple perspectives to ensure every student is engaged and learning. Also, utilizes a variety of assessments and instructional strategies to teach his/her content in ways that will encourage students to utilize them in other content areas.

(INTASC #2 Learning Differences, #6 Assessment, #8, Instructional Strategies, 21st Century #1, #2, #3, #4).

21st Century Teacher

3. Understands how motivation and behavior affects learning, therefore discovers ways (creative ways, such as humor, dance, music, drama, etc.) to motivate , excite and challenge his/her students to supplement learning and social environments; In addition makes use of technology and other resources to cater to different learners.

(Great Teacher #5, INTASC #2 Child Development, #3 Learning Environment, #5 Motivation and Behavior, 21st century #6).

21st Century Teacher

4. Assumes the role of leaders and collaborators to meet and maintain the complete needs of 21st century learners, takes responsibility for his/her choices and actions, as well as collaborating with colleagues, community members, community organizations, and student' families; In addition engages in opportunities for professional development.

(21st Century #5, INTASC #10 Interpersonal Relationships, INTASC #9 Ethical Practice /Professional growth and reflection)

21st Century Learner

A 21st century learner is aware of the complexity in this world, it's always changing.

Therefore, understands that learning is a **life long process** that requires constant use of the skills learnt –tools (more than classroom knowledge but leadership and responsibility knowledge) to help navigate through life and work environments.

These 21st century learners possess special keys to alter, transform, and re-direct a society towards the right direction.

References

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