

Tips for Administrators and Curriculum Leaders

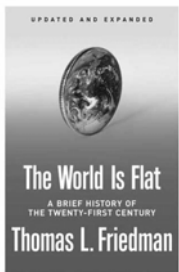
I offer here the 7 components which were critical to our journey this year. Perhaps they will be useful for you and help you move toward school 2.0. As a curriculum leader, I sought to develop specific ways to facilitate technology integration and a fuller understanding of the important transition we need to make to remain viable in the information age



1. I had to invest time in my own learning (of course you are here so you already are doing this)

- Reading educational blogs and technology journals,
- Writing a blog to synthesize your learning and think aloud
- Playing with the tools

2. I need to tell the story but I also need to model constructivist learning by guiding the faculty to construct their own understanding of Web/Classroom 2.0



Our mission statement says we educate students to be "productive citizens of the 21st century"

We started the year by watching Thomas Friedman's lecture from MIT on his book *The World is Flat* and talking about our mission.

How is teaching and learning in the 21st century different than in the 20th century?

3. I made time for the faculty to play with technology on a regular basis

- To make time I had to streamline something else...find ways to free up time for your faculty
- Change the format of our meetings (we waste a lot of time on things that could be put in memo's)
- I streamline as much as possible ...See if you can cut the paperwork you require of them..
- Set priorities and give the faculty permission to let something slide so they can learn something new (time invested upfront can pay big dividends)



4. I needed to be willing to be in the classroom and teach.. to let the teachers learn alongside the students as I taught about searching or Internet safety or how to use open office.





5. I needed to be willing to help organize projects and find resources particularly when we started our first international projects with other schools

6. I need to encourage, support and motivate the faculty begin to read blogs and technology resources and then share their reading at our faculty meetings

We spend the first 30 minutes or so of every faculty meeting on sharing from reading the faculty has done from the educational blogosphere. The sharing is great now and they are teaching each other. I am no longer the only voice. None of the faculty besides myself keep a blog yet but the quality of the reading and sharing is great and I know the writing and finding a voice beyond the confines of our school will come soon.

7. Celebrate every step, every accomplishment and keep the discussion of the story alive digging deeper at every opportunity. The only way to overcome inertia and fear is to get started.



Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”

Benjamin Franklin

"In the Information Age, students must be able to purposefully access information from a variety of sources, analyze and evaluate the information, and then integrate it to construct a personal knowledge base from which to make intelligent decisions. To foster these capabilities, educators must reexamine their assignments and teaching strategies. We must recognize and accept the fact that knowledge is changing so fast that no traditional curriculum can sufficiently supply students with fact-based learning needed for the challenges they will face. Instead, we must teach them the skills to continue learning independently long after they are out of school."The Online Educator Contemporary Literacy: Essential Skills for the 21st Century by Janet Murray, *Information Specialist*