Five Components for Delivering Effective Virtual Instruction

1. Flexibility

Flexible teaching is adaptable and aligns with students' instructional needs and unique learning styles. As an expert at delivering a differentiated approach in the classroom, rely on best practices for adapting instruction and applying these strategies in a virtual setting. In addition to flexible teaching, it is equally important to maintain flexibility with communication, timelines, due dates, and delivery methods.

Tip: Flexible teaching is not without structure. Being prepared with a toolkit of visual models, virtual manipulatives, and questioning strategies will allow for a seamless adaptation of instruction.

2. Engagement

Engaging students in a virtual setting will require some creativity but can be achieved in many ways. Consider using relatable or real-world examples that are interesting to the student, such as a favorite sport or cartoon. Then, use baseballs or Pokémon cards in a visual model.

Tip: Choosing visual models that are familiar to students will help drive engagement and avoid confusion.

3. Positivity & Patience

A positive and patient tone is an essential component of delivering virtual instruction. Recognizing effort, supporting misconceptions and providing encouragement will help students feel more comfortable in a virtual setting. Kindness and patience have a lasting impact on their attitude toward learning.

Tip: While students are not new to technology, they may be new to digital learning.

4. Student-Driven

Engaging students in academic discourse provides the platform to explore their thinking. When students are engaged in academic discourse, they will be able to explore their own understandings and make connections in a conceptual way. Rely on higher-order questioning strategies to facilitate the conversation.

Tip: Provide sufficient opportunity for higher-order questioning and think time to encourage productive struggle.

5. Celebrate Success

Students learn at many different levels. Meet students in their Zone of Proximal Development to access their knowledge on precursor skills. Scaffolding up from a topic they already understand to a new idea is cause for celebration.

Tip: Consider the amount of time you have to spend with students. One step forward in their learning, even if it is small, is a reason to celebrate.

Visit soapbox.wistia.com/videos/JtNy4Nzqh4 for the accompanying video!

imagine learning