



Facilitate a New Kind of Learning

Using technology to bring customized learning and personalized instruction together

Apple devices continue to transform the way teachers teach and students learn. As the digital classroom evolves, Mac and iPad programs lead the way, supporting new school and classroom initiatives. This report outlines how instructional staff can benefit from using devices and software that put student learning first.

CUSTOMIZED LEARNING FOR STUDENTS

Attempts at mass-customized learning have come a long way over the years. And while the terms may have changed, the basic premise has not. Whether it's called personalized learning, differentiated instruction, or individual learning plans, the concept of providing a unique experience for each student can present challenges for teachers — especially as class sizes continue to grow.

The goal of a more personalized approach is to help students on an individual basis and allow teachers to address each student's particular needs without disrupting other students. Each method looks to track and compare a student's growth and goes beyond the occasional assistance, letting instructors tailor lessons to individual or group needs.

PERSONALIZED INSTRUCTION BY TEACHERS

Recent advances in technology have simplified the complexities of personalized learning and are leading to personalized instruction. The key is getting teachers to feel comfortable with this new approach in an effort to enhance their abilities in the classroom.

When teachers are skilled and prepared to provide personalized instruction, they can address the needs within the entire class and tailor the lesson or project to match groups or individuals. This allows students of different skill levels to remain on track and achieve the necessary objectives. Students learning and progressing at the right pace is a crucial component.

EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTIONAL PATHS

However, changing teaching practices from traditional to personalized instruction can have its challenges. Current restrictions that are tied to traditional teaching models still force many institutions to be bound by time, days, and calendars. Because of this, innovative approaches are being explored that provide alternatives within the framework of traditional schedules. These approaches still have students in classrooms, but place an expectation on teachers to change their normal practices. Primarily, to move away from mostly in-class, lecture-based instruction and provide students an alternative instructional path — a path that is more student-centered, with emphasis on individualized learning styles, readiness, and pace.

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CREATE EVOLVED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR STUDENTS

Today, teachers are using several strategies to facilitate these new approaches to learning. These include flipped classrooms, project-based learning, and blended learning. Each allows for more flexibility compared to traditional learning approaches. Teachers may still be bound to strict schedules for meeting times, but are given the freedom to adjust the context of what happens in the class.

In-class time may now consist of discussions, peer-to-peer tutoring, project development, and engagements centered on an increased degree of higher-order thinking. This frees the teacher to provide direct instruction as needed via online lessons, small groups, and one-on-one interactions with students.

Ultimately the in-class time no longer has to be dedicated to direct instruction by the teacher. With a switch to accessing online content out of the classroom, the content could be teacher created from free or fee-based subscription resources, or even from student discovered sources.

BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY

This evolution has been made possible through the use of Apple technology. Mac computers and iPad devices are enabling students and teachers with the ability to conduct and complete lessons on their own time and with access to the right resources.

One of the most important steps to promoting the best learning environment is to get students and teachers comfortable in these evolved learning situations. This is one of the reasons why Apple has led the way. The intuitiveness and ease of use of Mac and iPad makes using them almost second nature to people of all ages and technological skills.

DELIVER ON-DEMAND CONTENT

Personalizing devices is key to getting teachers and students comfortable with them. And with Apple devices, schools can buy specialized software, content, and apps for students, and distribute them for learning; no longer tied to traditional schedules, proximity restrictions, or capacity issues. Even more conveniently, this content can be made available through a Self Service portal for users to access as needed. IT can then specify who—down to each individual—has access to what, based on grade levels, earned privileges, or other dynamic metrics.

PRESENT DYNAMIC CONTENT, AT THEIR FINGERTIPS

What is on each device can dynamically change to meet the needs and privileges of students and staff. The one-size-fits-all approach struggles to resonate in today's modern classroom, but an individualized model via managed applications or Self Service, eliminates this issue and makes every device and student special.

Commonly perceived drawbacks to this form of personalized instruction are concerns over gaining students' attention when needed, conducting secure assessments, and remaining aware of student progress. All of these can be easily addressed with the right management solution.

EASE TRANSISTIONS AND KEEP STUDENTS ACTIVELY ENGAGED

No matter the teaching method or environment provided to students, highly engaged moments when teachers

need to transition will be present. Some of the biggest drains on instructional time include:

- Beginning of class
- Moving from topic-to-topic
- Checking for understanding
- End of class

In personalized instruction, students often times are not working on the same project, but the teacher may need to bring the group together. When students are actively engaged, this may cause a challenge. Even if it only takes a minute to get students focused and ready to begin or continue a lesson, those minutes can add up over the course of a class period, week, and school year.

MAINTAIN STUDENT FOCUS

Teachers need the ability to occasionally interrupt, and it is important to keep the classroom's flow going by reducing transitions from minutes to seconds. To enable

this, a solution—such as Casper Focus—is desired to allow students to access the full range of Apple device capabilities, but at the same time, keep them focused on the task at hand. Students need the ability to become engaged in active learning, but teachers need to be able to momentarily regain students' attention, without

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immense effort or loss of valuable time.

PROVIDE SECURE TESTING ENVIRONMENTS

Regardless of the teaching methods in place, the need for a secure testing environment will always be present. From formative assessments that help provide ongoing feedback on student progress, to summative assessments that evaluate learning at the end of the term, testing student knowledge is a critical part of learning.

At the same time, use of assessment needs to be a natural extension of the learning experience. And a simple transition for students and teachers.

ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

To prepare students for summative assessments or high-stakes exams, enhanced question types are essential. These types of formative assessment questions go beyond multiple choice and get students solving more thought-provoking questions. Experience with enhanced question types also help ensure assessment readiness on the part of the student. By allowing the teacher to construct the appropriate questions, they can have a better grasp on student understanding.

FURNISH FAMILIAR AND SECURE TESTING ENVIRONMENTS

Providing the appropriate guidance throughout the course of the school year allows students to be comfortable and prepared for end-of-the-year exams, and in many states, Common Core State Standards (CCSS) exams. With the push to conduct these and other high-stakes exams online, it's imperative that these be conducted in a secure environment and adhere to all guidelines set by the state, including device and software requirements.

With the right hardware, software, and teaching platform in place, the same style of personalized instruction being used on a daily basis can be used for conducting exams. From secure Apple devices, the teacher can initiate the test — all from the classroom and on the device the students are familiar with.

ASSESS THE VALUE OF INVESTMENT

Taking all this into consideration before making an investment is essential, especially with different programs, teaching styles, and learning environments being implemented on a daily basis. Knowing what is working and why is paramount to student success. One of the best ways to evaluate the benefits and progress is to look at the overall Value of Investment (VOI).

VOI, as opposed to Return on Investment (ROI), goes beyond the time and money saved and measures student achievement and staff retention of digital classroom skills.

One approach that consistently provides high VOI is choosing Apple devices and a management solution that helps continually improve learning and student participation, while still driving the student's ability to score well on comprehensive exams.

CHOOSE A SOLUTION DESIGNED FOR EDUCATION

The Jamf Pro device management solution from JAMF Software provides the ability to adapt to any teaching strategy used with Apple devices. Mac and iPad devices are transformed into the ultimate teaching tools, with the help of the Jamf Pro.

To ensure students have the materials they need—and just what they need—a school's IT staff can use the intuitive Self Service feature of the Jamf Pro. This allows IT to place the appropriate apps and content into an Apple App Store-like environment where students can download school-approved materials when they need them, right onto their own device.

EXPERIENCE TEACHER MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR IPAD

In the classroom, in order to transition from student-centered to teacher-directed moments, teachers may need to focus students from one app or webpage to the next in order to maximize learning resources. While some teacher management options have been available for use on Mac, either in fixed lab settings or with laptops, there is now the need for a similar solution for use with iPad.

For times when students are highly engaged with their activities, the Jamf Pro is equipped with an education-centric app, Casper Focus, specifically designed for iPad management and put directly into the hands of the teacher. This app gives teachers a way to manage their classroom more efficiently and effectively by letting them decide what students can see and interact with on their iPad while class is in session.

Casper Focus creates the conditions for the teacher to allow individualized learning while providing the tools to bring back attention as needed. With just a couple of taps on the teacher's own iPad, they can zero students into a single app or Safari webpage. Since they are able to do this within the classroom—without IT assistance—they can shave minutes off transition times, and regain instruction time through improved classroom management.



Conclusion

Technology is changing the way education is done within the walls of today's K-12 institutions. Apple products, managed through JAMF Software, give students the ability to learn at their own pace with engaging, multi-dimensional tools. This form of management provides educators with technology to customize the access to content and resources, plus helps manage the in-class experience and assessments with a reduced reliance on IT involvement.



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