

WHAT IS A HYBRID CLASSROOM?

Working with students regardless of where they sit...

When designing a classroom, the needs of your students should always be your guide post. As we enter a new school year with a new mode of instruction, we need to be more **intentional** with our classroom design so that we best meet the needs of our students in the **building**, at **home**, and **fully virtual**...for ease of transition, this classroom is the "hybrid classroom."

We define a hybrid classroom as one where there is a group of students who will attend in person and at home (including those you will see physically and those who are fully virtual). Designing a hybrid classroom includes the use of activities that are learner centered and allow students in all 3 of these modes to be full participants in the class; for students to continue to learn and progress **regardless** of where they sit each day.

Hybrid instruction is different than anything we have ever seen at the secondary level. The idea that we cannot predict how a student will participate was unthinkable until the spring of 2020. While we are in the midst of this pandemic, and maybe beyond, we have to **plan** as if **all students are at a distance**, in order to make sure that all students can learn. When we return fully to the classroom, this preparation will help us to acquire and use new skills and collaborative ideas.

Regardless of our means of delivery, we can still to do the 3 things that we- as teachers- are expected to do:

- Provide** relevant and meaningful content
- Engage** students in memorable activities and learning experiences
- Assess** learners and **adapt** to the needs of our students

We realize that this is a paradigm shifting experience- and it is happening when all of us are under **stress**. The point of these materials is to help you with this transition and to offer **guidance** as you tackle a new form of instruction. In some ways, this is **EVERYONE'S** first year teaching... but if you put the emphasis on what matters most- our students and how they are learning and adopt the role of a **learning coach**, you may find that your connection to your students is deeper and more meaningful than it ever has been, regardless of where you or your students sit!