

"How Can The Use of Technology Enhance the Classroom/Work
Environment"

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The biggest influence that technology has on the classroom is the individualization that technology can offer so that teachers and instructional leaders can accommodate and modify lessons so much more easily in order to meet the needs of all of their students. With so many educational practices emphasizing the belief that “all students can learn”, the integration of technology in today’s classrooms truly supports this belief and good practitioners are able to utilize all of technology’s benefits.

In a study conducted by Milken Exchange on education technology, several schools were studied and conclusions were made on individual studies, patterns were reviewed, and the impact that technology had on students, teachers, and the learning experience were recorded in order to determine the effectiveness technology had on education to justify the monetary contributions made by specific stakeholders.

According to the studies, student achievement improved, in one case as much as fourteen percent higher than the controlled group without the use of computers. Student attitude became more positive toward learning as more lessons were conducted in stimulation mode or other forms of technology. Teaching practices changed in that students were learning more in less time, and students worked more in groups rather than having the traditional teacher lecture. In one case, it was found that the use of computers was more cost effective than class reduction, tutoring, and the increasing of instructional time. Possibly due to the fact that a single computer can be accessed by more students than one teacher could at a given time.

I believe that all of these positive findings have to do with how technology allows that individuality aspect in teaching and learning. The use of one software can be individualized as students are able to have unlimited access, and are able to work at their own pace. When students are able to comprehend the material in their own way, at their own pace, they are more successful in gaining true understanding and may even be more capable of proper application of skills learned in less time, compared to having to keep up with the rest of the class as the teacher

has to move on, without having that true grasp of understanding. Teachers are also able to modify lessons to allow for not only the more challenged learners, but also for those learners who are ahead of their class; keeping the attention and offering more higher level thinking challenges for those students who are more quick at learning concepts than the rest of the class.

With the proper trainings and utilization, students can benefit so much from the use of technology in the classrooms as it provides more attention to their specific needs, it enhances the learning experience and improves student attitude toward learning, as well as eliminating down time, and offering another alternative to the traditional style of lecture.

Reference:

Schacter, J. (1999). *Milken Exchange Foundation Research*. Retrieved October 21, 2010, from

Milken Exchange Foundation: www.milkenexchange.org