

We hope everyone has a restful break and wonderful holiday season!

Learning Competency Focus: Knowledge Construction

This month we are focusing on **Knowledge Construction**. The **generation**, or thoughtful creation, of **new ideas and understandings** lies at the heart of knowledge construction. By focusing on the process of creating ideas and carefully considering their value, we can become more skilled at thinking critically and creatively. But, how do students thoughtfully create, or generate, new understandings? And how can we expect our students to regularly come up with new ideas? In the context of learning, it is important that we think of "new" ideas and understandings as those that are "new to me" (just as when I purchase a pre-owned vehicle it is "new to me"). When we encourage students to generate new ideas, we are not concerned with how earth-shattering the ideas are; we are far more interested in the process by which students generate these ideas. For instance, a student who has created and tested a mathematical strategy is far more likely to have developed a deep, transferable understanding than a student who has observed a few worked solutions and completed the odd-numbered problems on page 413. Knowledge construction cannot be achieved when students merely reproduce what they have already learned. See the [Elevator Guide](#) here.

- ⇒ Click [here](#) for a great article on **21 ways to Construct Knowledge in the Classroom**. According to www.teachersolutions.com.au, "A key function of teaching is to help the learner construct new knowledge. ...Learner-centered instruction (LCI) fosters opportunities for learners to draw on their own experiences and interpretations."
- ⇒ Click [here](#) for a short presentation on ways to construct knowledge in the classroom called **Knowledge Construction Mindtools**.
- ⇒ Click [here](#) for a great article from *Edutopia* on giving students more **Voice and Choice** in constructing their knowledge.

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Practitioner in the Spotlight

Webster's Dictionary defines a Practitioner as someone who is "**actively engaged in an art, discipline or profession**". A **21st Century Practitioner** is someone who is "actively engaged in the art of the 21st Century Learning Practices" by infusing them in their instruction. This feature of the Newsletter will be shining a monthly spotlight on 21st Century Practitioners in our district who are doing amazing things in their classrooms utilizing the 21st Century Learning Practices.



Ms. Ashley Oliveira, Vaughn Middle School

Can you just give a short background of yourself, what you teach and when you first started using the 21st Century Learning Practices?

My name is Ashley Oliveira. I teach Spanish 1 and Spanish 2 as well as Student Leadership at Vaughn Middle School. I was first introduced to 21st Century Learning about 2 years ago when I started in the 21st Century Leaders Network.

How has using the 21st Century Learning Practices transformed your instruction?

I think the 21st Century Learning Practices have helped me realize that there's always a way to elevate my instruction and activities, and the more I elevate my lessons, the more engaged my students become in their learning. Even some of the best lessons or activities can be enhanced using the elevator guide.



- ◆ [CUE of NEVADA events](#)
- ◆ January 18, 2018 Leaders Network Professional Learning Day #3
- ◆ Saturday, January 27, 2018, [CUE-Nevada Tech Fest 2018](#) in Carson City
- ◆ March 15, 2018 Leaders Network Professional Learning Day #4

Practitioner in the Spotlight cont.

How has implementing the 21st Century Learning Practices transformed your students' learning and their achievement?

I think bringing the 21st Century Learning Practices into my classroom has allowed my students to interact and engage with each other more and construct more meaningful connections and understanding of the content in Spanish.

In thinking about planning with, and implementing, the 21st Century Learning Practices, what advice would you give to someone who is new to 21st Century Learning?

I would remind someone that is new to 21st Century Learning that 21st Century Learning is not just technology; that is only 1/6 of the puzzle. Anyone, in any content area, can implement 21st Century Learning Practices in their classroom. The elevator guides are a great tool for teachers to use to try and figure out ways to take an already great activity, even more engaging and meaningful for students.

Can you describe the activities you are doing related to 21st Century Learning with or without technology and to demonstrate the students' learning.

I have been working with Microsoft OneNote and Teams in an attempt to use technology more often in my class. Here is the lesson my students have been working on:

1. Diario 41: Students use what they learned last class about adverbs of frequency to respond to questions about how often they do certain activities.

A. Building on previous knowledge of AR Verbs

2. ER Verb Translation – Silent Charades

A. Each group assigned a different ER Verb. Groups find the translation of the verb and come up with a gesture or charade to show the class to try and get the class to guess the verb's meaning correctly.

B. Audience members write in their guesses of the ER verb translations based on the teams' gestures/charades. After all teams have given their charades, students share guesses of each ER Verb. For incorrect guesses, students change their responses to the correct translations.

3. ER Verb Conjugation Introduction – Pattern Finding

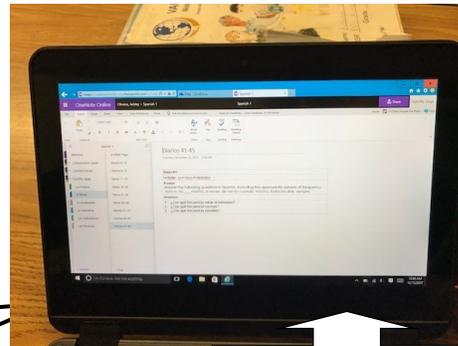
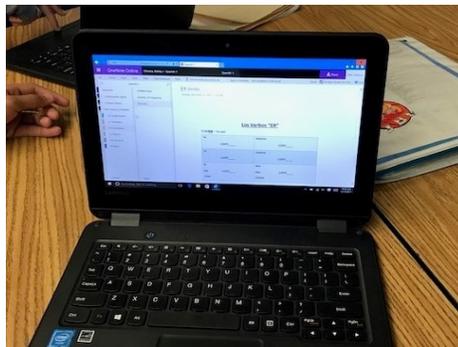
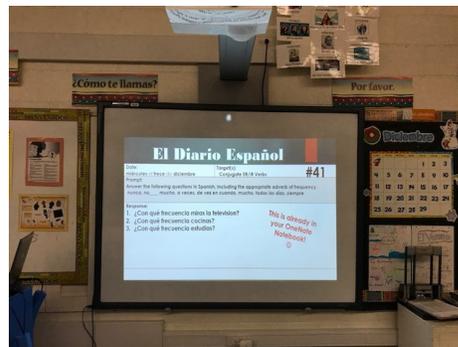
A. Students review the ending for AR Verbs (learned last week).

B. Students, in their groups, try to determine the pattern and determine what are the ER Verb endings going to be for each subject pronoun, based on the pattern that AR Verbs use. Groups must determine the pattern that they believe to be correct and share with the class.

i. EX: AR endings: -o, -as, -a, -amos, -ais, -an

ii. EX: ER endings: -o, -es, -e, -emos, -eis, -en

4. ER Verb Card Sort - Students are given 6 sentences written in English with many text boxes made up of Spanish subject pronouns, verb stems, verb endings, and Spanish adverbs of frequency. Students drag the text boxes over to the English sentences to develop the translations in Spanish, paying attention to adding the new, correct ER verb endings to the new ER verb stem for each sentence.



Great Management Tool



Awesome Management of Resources!



Use of Technology FOR Learning



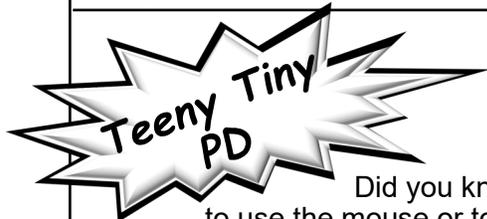
WANTED! 21st Century Exemplar Classrooms We are looking for 21st Century Exemplar Classrooms within Washoe County School District to exhibit the positive student impacts achieved through [21st Century Learning Practices](#). Applications are coming soon, so you can highlight your work and how it enhances students' learning. If chosen as an Exemplar Classroom teacher, your practice will be showcased for your peers, leaders within the district, and professional learning communities beyond Washoe County Schools.

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- ◆ [Here](#) are 10 Important Tasks that Teachers can do with the New Google Forms!
 - ◆ [Here](#) are 6 Great Extensions to Enhance your Online Reading Experience with Chrome!
 - ◆ [Here](#) are 135 Practical Ed Tech Tips for Teachers Great G-Suite Add-Ons & Chrome Extensions for Teachers
 - ◆ [Here](#) is How to Lock Your iPad Screen so Kids Stay Within the App

Want to see what 21st Century Learning looks like in our School District? Click [here](#) for videos.



Are **YOU** doing amazing things in your classroom with 21st Century Learning Practices? Would you be willing to share these great things with others? We would love to come in and video-tape your students showcasing the 21st Century Learning Practices! Please email Shari Dunn at skdunn@washoeschools.net to schedule. These also make great artifacts for evaluations!



This month's **Teeny Tiny PD** is brought to you by **Mark Skoff!** Mark is shining a spotlight on **Switching Between Open Programs with Your Keyboard!**

Did you know you can switch between open programs on your computer **without** having to use the mouse or touch pad? This Teeny Tiny PD will show you how to switch between open programs using the Alt + Tab keyboard shortcut without the need to use the mouse or touch pad!

Video: [Teeny-Tiny PD Switching Between Programs](#) * **Link to [Transcript](#) of Video**

More Resources: [Windows 10 Tip: Switching Between Open Apps and Desktops](#) from *IT Pro*



What the Tech? and other Tools

IT'S HERE!! Have a **question** related to **technology**? The 21st Century Learning Division and I.T. have collaborated to create a Question and Answer Forum for your technology related questions. You can browse a wide variety of categories and search for answers to your questions. User settings have also been set for **you** to pose questions on the site and get them answered. Click on the link for: [What the Tech? What the Tech](#) is a Sharepoint site so be sure to click on "Follow" so it's easy for you to find when you need it!

[Essential Apps Guide](#) from *Common Sense Media* - Apps can turn your smartphone or tablet into a learning tool, an entertainment system, or a way to dig up almost anything you want to know. This guide makes finding the best apps for the task (and your kids' needs) easy. Top-rated apps for your iOS, Android, or Kindle devices.



[10 Ways to Integrate Technology into Your Classroom](#) from *Educational Technology and Mobile Learning* - Using technology in class should always be motivated by a real need to optimize students' learning and to enhance your teaching. Every time you want to digitize a teaching task ask yourself the following questions: what are the added advantages of integrating technology in this task? And what are the alternative plans if things did not go as planned? The purpose is to make sure your use of technology is pedagogically sound and that it aligns with your own teaching goals. Technology should be in the hands of the students and supporting their knowledge construction.

These resources are updated monthly. Remember to always check with your administrator about obtaining parental consent when using third-party online tools.



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Please encourage colleagues at your site to take the Practitioner Badge course!



21st Century Practitioner Badge Courses

Practitioner Spring Badge Course - Brown Center - Jan. 23 to Mar. 6, 2018; 4:15 - 6:15pm
Facilitators: Tina Holland & Dr. Jessica Stepaniak
[Link to Register](#)

Practitioner Spring Badge Course - Sparks Middle School - Jan. 25 to Mar. 8, 2018; 4:15 - 6:15pm; Facilitators: Rachel Gibson & Mark Skoff
[Link to Register](#)

21st Century Leader Badge Courses

Prerequisite: Must have successfully completed Practitioner Badge

Leader Badge Course - Brown Center - March 5 to May 21, 2018; 4:15- 6:15pm
Facilitators: Tina Holland & Misha Miller-Hornbuckle
[Link to Register](#)

This monthly newsletter brought to you by The 21st Century Learning Division

Mail Stop: Brown Center

Contact us through our website, www.wcsd21.com with Questions, Concerns, Suggestions

Editor: [Dr. Jessica Stepaniak](#)

Check out our webpage frequently for new updates and resources.



EdTech Courses

Explorer Badge - CAMP 21 Online Course
Did you know... You can take Camp 21 more than once to earn credit. There are many options to choose from, so you'll be able to pick something new to learn about and explore!
January 23 to March 23; 1.0 credit
Facilitators: Terra Graves & Misha Miller-Hornbuckle
[Link to Register](#)

Other Free Webinars, Videos & Articles

Microsoft Teams in Office 365 Education updates rolling out, with more coming soon. See the latest information on Teams, OneNote, and other Microsoft Office products. Click [here](#) to read all about it.

How Technology Promotes ELL and Family Success Webinar. Presented by Dr. Bernadette Musetti, Associate Professor and Director of Liberal Studies at Loyola Marymount University. Click [here](#) to register and view video.

Digital Citizenship Across Grade Levels Webinar. Presented by Michelle Luhtala, Library Department Chair, New Canaan High School, CT; and Jacquelyn Whiting, Library Media Specialist, Wilton High School, CT, Google Certified Educator Level 2, and Google Certified Innovator. Click [here](#) to register and view video.

ClassTechTips.Com with Dr. Monica Burns. This site has a plethora of 21st Century Learning and Tech tips and resources. Dr. Monica Burns is a Curriculum and EdTech Consultant, Apple Distinguished Educator and Founder of ClassTech-Tips.com. As a part of her school's leadership team, she was a vocal advocate for bringing one-to-one technology into her classroom.