Reaction Paper

Education 540

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In today’s society it is important to provide students with a wide range of ways to learn. I think Florida Virtual Schools are an imperative to students who need alternate ways to get an education. Virtual schools can be beneficial if used correctly or disastrous to our student’s future if used wrongly. All schools could eventually become online or virtual schools. Looking online it is amazing how many classes are available online. I have mixed feelings on the use of virtual classes.

Some of the positive aspects of having virtual schools is the flexibility to meet students need. As teachers we come across many students who are just buying their time to drop out of school when they become of age. These factors that contribute to the student dropout rate could include bullying, self esteem issues, or health issues. Having virtual schools can aid these students by still providing a genuine education while taking classes in the comfort of their own home. Another benefit of having virtual schools is students can take classes that they may not be able to take otherwise. Due to budget cuts AP classes and foreign languages are normally not offered to smaller schools. With the use of virtual schools it now makes more things possible. This can be effective or older students but can it be effective for younger students?

I can think of several drawbacks to online and virtual classes. How do we as educators know that the work is being completed by the actual students? Parents, family, or friends could be doing the work for students and teachers not know. How can virtual classes be effective if students aren’t doing the class work themselves? In certain circumstances virtual classes can be used for younger students but I don’t feel it can be effective as students in the classroom. Elementary students need the face to face interaction from a teacher were the can be nurtured into bright and creative learners.

Florida Virtual Online classes seem to be well received by users and staff. The reviews on the virtual classes are exceptional. Providing the classes for free to in state students makes education from home attainable by all students. While looking at the classes offered from Florida Virtual Schools there are a wide variety of classes meeting most needs of students. However are we loosing the authenticity and face to face motivation from in classroom teachers? I feel that classes offered online only meet the basic educational experience. However we are in the digital natives era and we as educators need to switch how we teach to adapt to meet the needs of our students.

This is a list of classes offered from Florida Virtual Classes in West Virginia that are accepted as core standards:

Health Opportunities through Physical Education

Algebra I

Algebra I Honors

Algebra II

Algebra II Honors

Pre-Calculus Honors

Geometry

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| Language Arts |
| 6th to 8th Grade Reading |
| 7th Grade English/Language Arts |
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| English 6 - Semester 1 |  |
| English 6 - Semester 2 |  |
| English 7 - Semester 1 |  |
| English 7 - Semester 2 |  |
| English 9 - Semester 1 |  |
| English 9 - Semester 2  English 10 - Semester 1  English 10 - Semester 2  English 11  English 12  Biology/ Biology Honor  World History  Chemistry |  |
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