Tips for Online Teaching

The transition from a traditional classroom to a virtual one is extremely challenging. Let’s start with a few remote teaching tips and ideas.

- **Be in charge as you work together:** “I am the director of this movie, but we are all in this together,” says math professor Leonardo Rolla in "Five tips for moving teaching online as COVID-19 takes hold" | Nature.com. Additional tips from this article and others include:
- **Look for ways to engage students:** Go around “the classroom” and ask students specific questions about the material; connect their answers to a question for the next student.
- **Strategically streamline your goals:** Identify and focus on a few specific things that you want students to learn.
- **Check in on how your students are feeling:** Students may be experiencing fear, anxiety and information overload that can affect their ability to learn.
- **Create space for fun:** Bonus point for finding ways to add laughter to your lessons.
- **Give up on having students’ undivided attention:** But that doesn’t mean you can’t “call on” a student who doesn’t appear to be engaged.
- **Make your virtual classroom distraction-free:** Noise and movement affect students’ ability to focus.
- **Identify and support struggling students:** Students may struggle technologically as well as academically. It’s also important to understand that not everyone has equal access to technology.
- **Don’t rely entirely on live video:** You can’t guarantee the quality of your feed.
- **Use “asynchronous communication” tools:** Online bulletin boards, chat channels and discussion groups can be used to keep students learning outside your virtual classroom time.
- **Invest in a decent headset:** One that also has a microphone will enable you to more clearly hear and respond to your students.
- **Take care of yourself:** The stress can be overwhelming, so it’s important to be aware, know your limits, reach out for a calming conversation or connect with specific resources (see Emotional Support Resources for Teachers below).

Additional remote teaching suggestions: “14 Simple Tips for Better Online Teaching”

Zoom Classroom ‘Playbook’

Like countless other people who are now working remotely, many teachers are using the videoconferencing platform Zoom. Get teacher-to-teacher advice on “Creating Your Online Classroom Environment” with Zoom in this online Zoom Education “Playbook.”

Educators using online learning sites must be mindful of taking security precautions to safeguard their virtual classrooms. WeLiveSecurity.com shares helpful information on how to “be aware of the security risks of videoconferencing and how to easily overcome them.”