

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."](#)