Getting Back to Better than Normal

Leadership Lessons from a Global Pandemic

Dr. Lu Young
NAESP, August 27, 2020
Thank You

YOU DESERVE A STANDING OVATION!
Where to Next?
“Better than Normal”

that must be our goal!
Better than Normal

Normal just isn’t good enough, and, frankly, it never was.

- Inequitable access and opportunity
- Pernicious achievement gaps
- Too few students make a successful transition to post-secondary
To get to better than normal, we must be guided by Science.
Video Link
5 minutes
(very worth your time)
The malleable brain relies on relationships and experiences.
If children have the experience of adversity, they will have uneven development of foundational skills like self-regulation and relationship skills, that are prerequisites for more complex skills like perseverance and self-direction.

Dr. Pamela Cantor
Link:
https://youtu.be/o1VoUImKYDE
Children are amazingly resilient if they get that opportunity for attachment, for comfort, and for problem-solving with a caring adult.

Linda Darling Hammond
Link: https://youtu.be/o1VoUImKYDE
how do we get to

“Better than Normal”

???
Better & more consistent tools

Deeper & more student-centered learning opportunities

Stronger relationships & support
Focus on full deployment of a minimally viable digital learning platform first
A normal Ed Tech. Conference looks like this.
What is a **minimally viable digital learning platform**?

1. Internet access (wifi at home or school)
2. A device such as a Chromebook for older kids or a tablet for younger kids
3. Access to online productivity software (Google Apps or Microsoft 365)
4. A learning management system to organize the digital learning experience
5. A video platform to connect with kids and families
NAESP, We ALL need to focus on delivering this to every child ASAP.
Chatter Break:
What minimum Ed Tech are you using for learning today?
But, keep in mind that these are just tools. Learning requires more.
We need to upgrade the technology **IN** Schooling, yes.

Necessary, but **not** sufficient.
We need to upgrade the technology of schooling.
How do we craft learning systems & opportunities that provide equitable, deeper learning experiences?
The Next Gen Nine

Next Generation Learning Structures

Equity of Opportunity Structures

https://www.lead.school/next-gen-9
This page has deeper explanations including self-assessment rubrics
Graduate Competencies

Pandemic Pro-Tip:
Document, reward & give credit for student passion projects completed outside school requiring independent learning.
Pandemic Pro-Tip: Incorporate positive pandemic math into an inquiry project, such as calculating the amount of carbon saved in your town through less travel.
Student Agency, Empowerment & Voice

Pandemic Pro-Tip: Prep learners for virtual student-led conferences where you as the teacher join by video.
Performance Assessment Structures

Pandemic Pro-Tip:
Collect evidence of student learning in a shared digital portfolio, such as a folder in Google Drive. Define badges kids can earn by adding artifacts.
Profesional Teaching Culture

Pandemic Pro-Tip: Hold virtual project tuning sessions with teams of staff to discuss & fine tune our projects.

KYGoDigital consistently proves that we can be professional together in a strong adult learning culture even in the most challenging of times.
Chatter Break:
Which of the Next Gen 9 resonated with you most today? Why?
“An invisibly visible 10 year old who wanted to belong in her learning environment.

In middle school I would go through each book in the stacks to find a book cover that looked like me.


I finally found a connection that was relevant to me in school.”

Culturally Relevant & Authentic Curriculum

Pandemic Pro-Tip: Have students write/tell stories, perhaps with audio/video, of how people in their own family are changing in response to the pandemic.
Access & Inclusivity to High Quality Learning for All Students

Pandemic Pro-Tip: Record yourself reading challenging texts to your students, like creating them a mixtape, on a podcast feed using Anchor.fm.
Weekly Check Ins

“How are you feeling?”

Positive, Restorative, Non-Exclusionary & Equitable School Discipline

Pandemic Pro-Tip:
Use Canva to design a personal PBIS “Note of Praise” to send to students in online learning.
Student Guidance, Advisory, Mentoring & Other Social and Emotional Learning Supports

Pandemic Pro-Tip: Designate some meaningful time each week for student mentoring and focus on the child, not schoolwork.
“Generally change in our society is incremental. Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.”
“Generally change in our society is incremental. Real change, enduring change, happens one step child at a time.”
That is "Better than Normal" Leadership

Remaining Questions???

lu.young@uky.edu

@lusettlesyoung