

CREATIVE USE OF TABLETS IN SCHOOLS: MODULE 4

SECTION 4.6

It is all free so literally if the school has internet connectivity, has computers – any type of computer – you are ready to start a one-to-one.

It is great for motivation, it is great for practise – I would not go back to teach another way if I had the choice.

When I first heard about Khan Academy the appealing point was taht it was going to reach all students where they are and to meet them where they are. When I heard that they can work at their own pace and that it would free me up to be able to work with individual groups of students i just jumped on it.

I always wanted to try to do other things. I always tried to pull in projects. I always tried to find ways of hitting all the students at all their levels and I just never felt like I was doing a very good job at it so when Khan Academy came within the first two weeks I just looked at it and said oh my goodness this is amazing. It finally gave me the freedom to that I was teaching and that nobody at any time was bored.

Khan Acedemy has really had a great impact on most of my students. There are those high achievers who use it to move ahead and their curious about maths and they are wanting to move on and they are wanting to explore new things and they have the ability to do that. Then we have the struggling ones who are still struggling with basic maths that they never mastered in third, fourth of fifth grade and this gives them a chance to go back and fill those gaps in their understanding and move forward on a firmer foundation.

It really comes down to what is the benefit for the students and what is the benefit for the teacher – in that order. Khan Academy got students the instruction, the learning that they needed at a level they were at at the time they needed it.

DATA DRIVEN INSTRUCTION

Using the data I can break students into groups, I can target students that are specifically struggling in certain areas. I can also see students as a whole. I give for instance the class a module to complete on [...] and if they have all mastered it before I introduce it in the calss I know that this is something I do not need to spend as much time on. As a teacher it has freed up learning time for me to use time more efficiently.

It has changed my students because they are more accountable, they know where they are at, they definitely have a sense whether they know something or they don't. They are much more vocal and advocate for themselves and it has changed me because I know a lot more about my students

MASTERY-BASED LEARNING

One thing Khan has changed dramatically is now there are learning processes, they know how to do them correctly as opposed to just learning how to get by.

The students come to see it as a video game where in a video game you fail all the time and what we have noticed has been great is that students learn from their mistakes before it is too late and they grow and they learn the maths instead of continuing to pretend they understand it.

I helps in that I can pinpoint to certain areas. Sometimes you can go on for several weeks and not know that a kid did not get something from two chapters ago so with Khan Academy these things kind of show up more often and you can go in and sort of save the day.

INTERACTIVE LEARNING

We had more time actually to pull in projects to go into other kinds of activities that are are not just out of your Maths book which is fantastic because that is where kids really learn and that is what they love

These kids are actively engaged in learning. These kids are applying their understanding of Maths to different situations and they can have opportunities for one-to-one interactions or small group interactions with me where we can have maths conversations that really contribute to their learning.

Now that they are fully engaged I actually have more of a challenge to be a Maths teacher. Now I have to find a way that really takes them deeper into complex problems, solving more difficult work problems because they are engaged and they are ready for it.

Maths instruction has really become richer and engaging for our students.