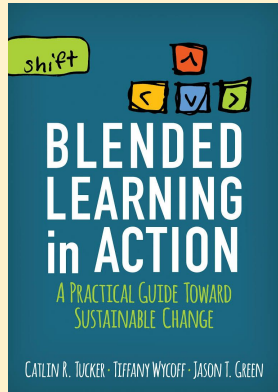


Summer 2017 Innovation in Education

Book Recommendations

Blended Learning



Blended Learning in Action
Catlin Tucker

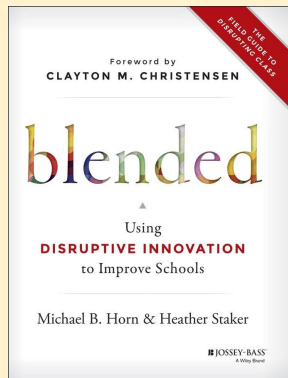
Overview

Blended Learning in Action supports teachers, teacher leaders, and schools as they shift to a blended learning model. Blended learning has several advantages over traditional instruction if technology is used to effectively engage students in active learning both inside the classroom and online. Blended learning allows for more communication and collaboration both synchronously and asynchronously, creates more opportunities for students to drive their own learning, provides teachers with more time to work one-on-one or in small groups to differentiate and personalize learning while providing more timely feedback. This book includes research, examples, anecdotes, and resources gathered from the author's work as well as interviews with teachers and school leaders using different blended models.

Why should I read it?

Loaded with research and examples, *Blended Learning in Action* demonstrates the advantages a blended model has over traditional instruction when technology is used to engage students both inside the classroom and online. Readers will find:

- Breakdown of the most effective classroom setups for blended learning
- Tips for leaders
- Ideas for personalizing and differentiating instruction using technology
- Strategies for managing devices in schools
- Questions to facilitate professional development and deeper learning



Blended
Michael B. Horn & Heather Staker

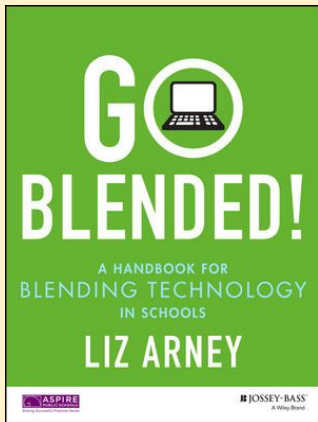
Overview

Blended is the practical field guide for implementing blended learning techniques in K-12 classrooms. A follow-up to the bestseller *Disrupting Class* by Clayton M. Christensen, Michael Horn, and Curtis Johnson, this hands-on guide expands upon the blended learning ideas presented in that book to provide practical implementation guidance for educators seeking to incorporate online learning with traditional classroom time. Readers will find a step-by-step framework upon which to build a more student-centered system, along with essential advice that provides the expertise necessary to build the next generation of K-12 learning environments. Leaders, teachers, and other stakeholders will gain valuable insight into the process of using online learning to the greatest benefit of students, while avoiding missteps and potential pitfalls.

Why should I read it?

Blended provides a how-to guide to blended learning including detailed information about the strategy, design, and implementation of a successful blended learning program.

- Discover a useful framework for implementing blended learning
- Unlock the benefits and mitigate the risks of online learning
- Find answers to the most commonly asked questions surrounding blended learning
- Access videos from real blended classrooms and envision what it could look like for you
- Create a more student-centered system that functions as a positive force across grade levels



Go Blended!
Liz Arney

Overview

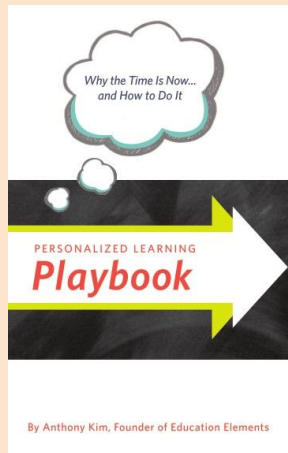
Go Blended! is a practical implementation guide for educators interested in getting blended learning off the ground. Author Liz Arney is a seasoned developer of blended learning programs at Aspire Public Schools, and she also closely collaborates with district and charter leaders from across the country on this work. *Go Blended!* offers boots-on-the-ground support for laying the foundation for a blended learning program in our schools and classrooms. Throughout the book teachers with blended learning experience share helpful tips and lesson plans to help educators make purposeful choices in using technology to fulfill students' needs without becoming an end in itself. This useful guide also offers key documents and timelines to support a blended learning implementation and provides step-by-step practical advice for avoiding mistakes. Readers will gain expert insight into both the broad and narrow of blended transition, from sweeping concepts like program goals to nitty-gritty details like teaching routines around technology use.

Why should I read it?

Go Blended! helps school leaders and teachers take their first steps toward blended learning, putting them in a better position to continuously adapt as the world changes. You'll learn how to:

- Investigate leadership and staff readiness to "go blended."
- Learn how to evaluate and purchase the right educational software.
- Keep the program's goals in mind throughout the development process.
- Teach lessons that set students up for success when using classroom technology.
- Tailor the program to the students, not the other way around.

Personalized Learning



The Personalized Learning Playbook
Anthony Kim

Overview

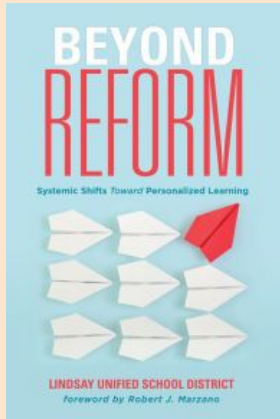
Written by Anthony Kim, founder and CEO of Education Elements, *The Personalized Learning Playbook* is an introduction to the mindset, technology and schools that are leading the way.

We are at a new moment in our ability to make education relevant, individualized, and effective for teachers and students alike. Personalized learning is changing the way students learn and teachers teach in ways that increase student engagement, accelerate their learning, and enable them to be more successful in college and career.

Why should I read it?

This quick and practical read is designed to make the case for why the time to do personalized learning is now while providing guidance on how to do it well. See a few key takeaways below:

- Focus on the right stuff, iterate and try. Don't just think and plan. You have to start somewhere.
- Reflect on how you've recently learned something first before thinking about how to teach others. How we learn today has changed significantly from the past.
- Technology enables global real-time collaboration and information. Information is free. Personal brand reigns with our current generation of students.



Beyond Reform
Systematic Shift Toward Personalized Learning
Lindsay Unified School District
Foreword by Robert Marzano

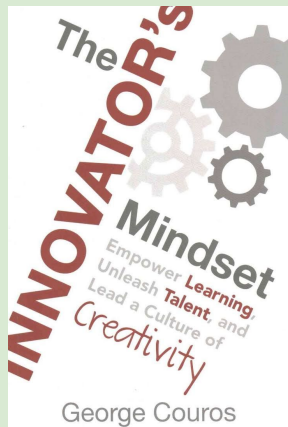
Overview

Like many school districts, Lindsay Unified School District faced difficulty meeting the needs of increasingly diverse student populations. Through this detailed resource, you will learn how Lindsay Unified took action to improve student learning by shifting from a traditional time-based education system to a learner-centered performance-based system. By adopting and tailoring Lindsay Unified's instructional model, you and your team can embark on your own district's transformation toward establishing a revised education system that empowers and motivates all students to succeed.

Why should I read it?

- Consider Lindsay Unified's core values and visions for leadership, curriculum, assessment, learning, and technology.
- Meet Lindsay Unified students and see how the district's performance-based system transformed their learning.
- Explore core value rubrics that school staff can use to reflect on personal leadership growth, frame important conversations, and provide feedback.
- Study Lindsay Unified's instructional model, which helps align the district's instructional decisions with its unified instructional vision.
- Download a free reproducible checklist for shifting to a performance-based system and lists of recommended strategies for ensuring a successful district transformation.

Developing a Personalized Learning Mindset



Innovator's Mindset
George Couros

Overview

Kids walk into schools full of wonder and questions. How you, as an educator, respond to students' natural curiosity can help further their own exploration and shape the way they learn today and in the future. The traditional system of education requires students to hold their questions and compliantly stick to the scheduled curriculum. But our job as educators is to provide new and better opportunities for our students. It's time to recognize that compliance does not foster innovation, encourage critical thinking, or inspire creativity—and those are the skills our students need to succeed. In *The Innovator's Mindset*, George Couros encourages teachers and administrators to empower their learners to wonder, to explore—and to become forward-thinking leaders. If we want innovative students, we need innovative educators - innovation begins with you. Innovation is not about a skill set: it's about a mindset.

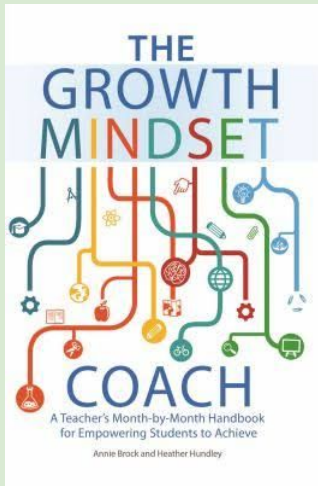
Why should I read it?

The Innovator's Mindset is for you if:

- You are a superintendent, district administrator, or principal who wants to empower your staff to create a culture of innovation
- You are a school leader - at any level - and want to help students and educators become their personal best
- You are a teacher who wants to create relevant learning experiences and help students develop the skills they need to be successful

You'll be inspired to:

- connect with other innovative educators
- support teachers and leaders as learners
- tap into the strength of your learning community
- create ongoing opportunities for innovation
- seek more effective methods for measuring progress
- And, most importantly, embrace change and use it to do something amazing.



The Growth Mindset Coach
Annie Brock & Heather Hundley

Overview

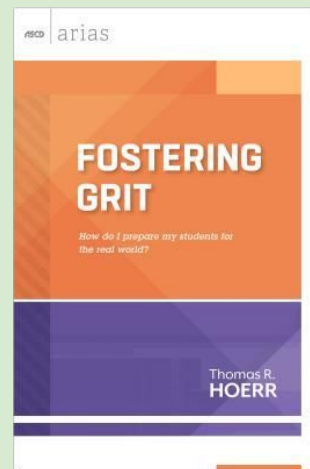
Studies show that growth mindsets result in higher test scores, improved grades and more in-class involvement. When your students understand that their intelligence is not limited, they succeed like never before. With the tools in this book, you can motivate your students to believe in themselves and achieve anything.

Created by teachers for teachers, this is the ultimate guide for unleashing students' potential through creative lessons, empowering messages and innovative teaching.

Why should I read it?

The Growth Mindset Coach provides all you need to foster a growth mindset classroom, including:

- A Month-by-Month Program
- Research-Based Activities
- Hands-On Lesson Plans
- Real-Life Educator Stories
- Constructive Feedback
- Sample Parent Letters



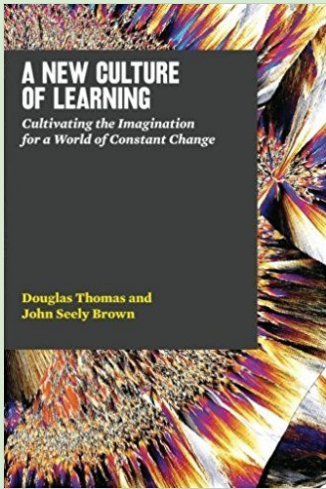
Fostering Grit
Thomas R. Hoerr

Overview

For too long, educators have focused only on getting students ready for the next test, for the next grade, for graduation, or maybe for college. Students must be prepared to succeed in school, and they must know how to read, write, and calculate. But that's only the beginning. Our job-whether we teach kindergarten, 5th grade, or high school or we lead a school or district-is to prepare students for success in the real world. To do so, we must also teach grit. Grit is a combination of tenacity and perseverance-a willingness to take risks even if it means sometimes failing and starting again. Knowing how to respond to frustration and failure is essential whether a student struggles or excels.

Why should I read it?

Veteran school leader and popular Educational Leadership columnist Thomas R. Hoerr shows what teaching for grit looks like and provides a sample lesson plan and self-assessments, along with a six-step process applicable across grade levels and content areas to help students build skills they need to succeed in school and in life.



A New Culture of Learning
Douglas Thomas & John Seely Brown

Overview

The twenty-first century is a world in constant change. In *A New Culture of Learning*, Doug Thomas and John Seely Brown pursue an understanding of how the forces of change, and emerging waves of interest associated with these forces, inspire and invite us to imagine a future of learning that is as powerful as it is optimistic.

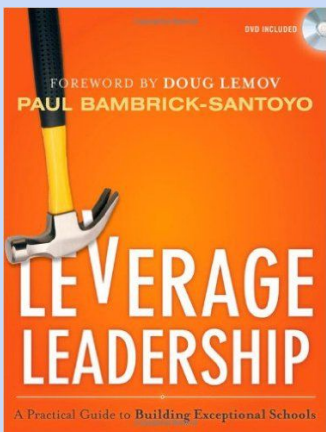
By exploring play, innovation, and the cultivation of the imagination as cornerstones of learning, the authors create a vision of learning for the future that is achievable, scalable and one that grows along with the technology that fosters it and the people who engage with it.

Why should I read it?

This is a book that looks at the challenges that our education and learning environments face in a fresh way. "A new culture of learning" is based on several basic assumptions about the world and how learning occurs:

- The world is changing faster than ever and our skill sets have a shorter life
- Understanding play is critical to understanding learning
- The world is getting more connected than ever before – can that be a resource?
- In this connected world, mentorship takes on new importance and meaning
- Challenges we face are multi-faceted requiring systems thinking & socio-technical sensibilities
- Skills are important but so are mindsets and dispositions
- Innovation is more important than ever – but turns on our ability to cultivate imagination
- A new culture of learning needs to leverage social & technical infrastructures in new ways
- Play is the basis for cultivating imagination and innovation

Supporting Personalized Learning



Leverage Leadership
Paul Bambrick-Santoyo

Overview

Paul Bambrick-Santoyo (Managing Director of Uncommon Schools) shows leaders how they can raise their schools to greatness by following a core set of principles. These seven principles, or "levers," allow for consistent, transformational, and replicable growth. With intentional focus on these areas, leaders will leverage much more learning from the same amount of time investment. Fundamentally, each of these seven levers answers the core questions of school leadership: What should an effective leader do, and how and when should they do it.

Why should I read it?

Aimed at all levels of school leadership, the book is for any principal, superintendent, or educator who wants to be a transformational leader. The book includes 30 video clips of top-tier leaders in action. These videos bring great schools to you, and support a deeper understanding of both the components of success and how it looks as a whole. There are great tips for feedback and coaching that includes many helpful rubrics, extensive professional development tools, calendars, and templates.