



Dear Network Leader and Innovative Principals,

As you know, our district has made huge strides in technology integration over the past couple of years, but the learning and teaching experience has changed very little in our schools. Our district is low performing and student absenteeism is still a daily issue of lost learning opportunities. Every learner has been provided a device and internet access, but most are teaching and learning with just substitution when using the technology. Our district's post-pandemic vision and expected condition are positioned to promote personalized anytime and anywhere learning. Our district vision of learning has even shifted to embrace joy and creativity! This is an incredible opportunity for us to try a new model that can provide personalized accelerated learning opportunities and embrace student ownership over place, path, time and/or pace of learning (Horn, Staker, & Christensen, 2017). We have the responsibility to utilize 1-to-1 technology to empower, engage and accelerate learning.

With the newly adopted district Learning Management System, Schoology, and the Clever Portal for single user sign on, our learners and educators can easily access district-wide applications and content that if utilized intentionally, can provide opportunities to truly dive deep into blended learning to personalize and accelerate the learning experience for our scholars! Do your teachers utilize the district provided Schoology LMS, SeeSaw Digital portfolios, or any of the apps such as Great Minds, IL Classroom, Sora, Study Island, Edmentum, Newsela, or MyNGConnect? These resources are provided free of charge by the district, and with intentional planning, can enhance the teaching and learning experience through blended learning strategies. In my purposed innovation plan, educators will learn what is available and how it can be used to perfect their teaching craft to provide each scholar a learning experience that is personalized, joyful, and worthy of their productive struggle.

As instructional leaders, I know you feel the urgency of this work. As part of my graduate studies in Applied Digital Technology, we have the opportunity to collaborate together to strategically implement an intentional blended learning plan at your school(s). We can explore Rotational Model, Flex Model, A La Carte Model, and Enriched Virtual, which are the four main blended learning models (Horn, Staker, & Christensen, 2017) to select what will best fit your needs. Together, we will implement blended learning strategies, provide joyful professional learning experiences, collaborate to ensure accountability for implementation, create opportunities for reflection and feedback, and capture your blended learning story to share with your

school community and district. Sharing your journey can inspire others to embrace and support this innovative change.

I would like to pilot a program in one or two of your network K-8 schools with a few key teachers to support and guide a blended learning implementation journey over the next two academic years. Using these teachers as our pilot group, we can make adjustments to our plan and look to expand this plan across the network. To gauge interest, please allow me to take teams from your network schools on a joyful blended learning adventure during a district professional development day. After our intro time together, you and your school teams can decide if this is a journey they would like to collaborate on. I look forward to working with you and your team to create a more joyful, personalized, engaging and creative learning experience for all. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Reference:

Horn, M. B., Staker, H., & Christensen, C. M. (2015). Blended: Using disruptive innovation to improve schools. Jossey-Bass.