

# HEALTH SCIENCE Educator

Tips, ideas and opinions for Health Science Education



April 2020

## COVID-19 EDITION



A free publication for professionals who choose to make a difference in the classroom – or working from a home office.

*You inspire the heroes of healthcare!*

**Do or do not.**

**There is no try.**

*Yoda*

### ★ EDUCATION NEWS: PANDEMIC LEARNING

Most new approaches to education are somewhat planned. You would have had an announcement, a faculty meeting, and then hands-on training. You would have a little time to get used to the idea.

Then came COVID-19.

***And for most educators, literally overnight, you became online instructors in a virtual classroom.***

Clearly, anyone who can leave the profession for which they were trained (healthcare) and excel in a classroom full of students is not going to be thrown by moving to a virtual environment.

### Teaching Online



*"You have 736 new messages!"*

*You make a difference.*

You're stressed. They're stressed. Some have lost family members to the pandemic. Graduation is approaching. Times are crazy – for everyone!

And **your students need you now, more than ever.** As the world turns to the healthcare community to be the heroes who care for the victims, your students will turn to you as their link between the world as they know it and the profession they plan to pursue. Your response to teaching online and providing the emotional support that your students need matters now more than ever. **Don't let it throw you.**

## ★ EDUCATION NEWS: *The Survey Approach*

How's it going?  
*Just ask.*

My husband is a high school social studies teacher and has been navigating the world of online learning with mixture of frustration and courage. After weeks of struggles mixed with progress, one of the things we noticed is that so far, nobody from the school system has reached out to ask, "How's it going?" It seems to me that teachers need support. And to be heard. And to be understood.

The image shows a survey form with the following questions and options:

- How well have you adjusted to online learning?  
A. It's been great!  
B. It's OK  
C. I'd rather be in school.  
D. This has been a nightmare.
- How much work have you had to do for my class compared to your other classes?  
A. More  
B. Less  
C. About the same
- How would you rate the difficulty of the assignments in this class?  
A. Very difficult  
B. Not difficult but a little confusing  
C. Fair amount of difficulty  
D. Too easy
- How much would you say you have learned from online learning in this class?  
A. A lot  
B. A little  
C. Not much

Additional questions include: "What has been the most positive part of this online learning experience?", "What has been the most challenging part of this online learning experience?", and "I've tried to include some FUN assignments along the way. What is your favorite type of assignment?"

That prompted the next thought, which was, "How are my students doing?" We know what they're doing because we can grade their work, but HOW are they doing is a different question.

The solution? A simple survey. 52% of my husband's students responded to the survey, and here is what they had to say in response to some of the questions:

How well have you adjusted to online learning?

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| A. It's been great!          | 9%  |
| B. It's OK                   | 34% |
| C. I'd rather be in school.  | 53% |
| D. This has been a nightmare | 3%  |

How much would you say you have learned from online learning in this class?

- |             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| A. A lot    | 31% |
| B. A little | 63% |
| C. Not much | 6%  |

What has been the most positive part of this online learning experience?

1. ***Sleeping in***
2. ***Working at my own pace***

What has been the most challenging part of this online learning experience?

1. ***Technology issues***
2. ***Teacher not there to help and explain***

I've tried to include some FUN assignments along the way. What is your favorite type of assignment?

1. ***Videos***
2. ***Puzzles and cartoons***

Does it help to know what your students are thinking and feeling? We think it does. Page 3 of this newsletter is a survey you can use NOW to get feedback from your students. If you want it in MS Word, send an email to [creativd@cfl.rr.com](mailto:creativd@cfl.rr.com) and we'll be happy to send it to you as an attachment.

## Are YOU OK?

We all know that change is stressful.

You spent the last month trying to figure out how to manage the physical changes that come with teaching from home and online learning. Now it's time to address the emotional toll this is taking.

Are you about to crack?



**Be alert to the warning signs:**

- Feeling hopeless, irritable or angry.
- Making an unusual amount of mistakes.
- Using negative words in emails and conversations (never, impossible)
- Physical response – headaches, insomnia, digestive issues.

If you think you are about to lose it over the challenges you are currently facing, it's time to reboot. The truth is (and we know you know this) you're the only one who can fix it for you.

**How?**

1. **Stop** trying to be the perfect teacher, spouse, parent, housekeeper, etc. When things go back to normal you can reactivate your super powers. For now, give yourself a break.
2. **Look** for the good stuff. Take the time to notice what is working. It won't make the bad go away, but it can provide a mental break.
3. **Listen** to your team. (That would be your family, friends, and colleagues.) Find the joy in supporting them, and you might find that they will give you the support you need in return.

# HEALTH SCIENCE STUDENT SURVEY

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*The CLOVID-19 pandemic brings a great many challenges to the health and well being of people in this country and to the educational environment. My goal is to support you and meet your needs, and I need your help.*

*Please respond to this survey. It's my way of trying to understand how you are doing and how your response to online learning impacts my role as an educator.*

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, how do you feel about pursuing a health career?

- A. More committed than ever before
- B. No change in motivation
- C. Unsure about my future
- D. No longer plan to pursue a health career

How well have you adjusted to online learning?

- A. It's been great!
- B. It's OK
- C. I'd rather be in school.
- D. This has been a nightmare.

How would you rate the difficulty of the online learning assignments in this class?

- A. Very difficult
- B. Not difficult but sometimes confusing
- C. Fair amount of difficulty
- D. Too easy

How much would you say you have learned from online learning in this class?

- A. A lot (Learning has been effective)
- B. A moderate amount
- C. Not much



What has been the most positive part of this online learning experience?



What has been the most challenging part of this online learning experience?

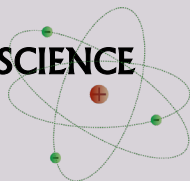


What is your favorite or most beneficial (learning value) type of assignment?



Has the CLOVID-19 epidemic influenced your future career plans? If so, what has changed?

*THANK YOU for your time and feedback!*



## Games

### Is your goal to make learning memorable?

If you believe that students should remember what they learn, then you will want to be sure that the exercises, techniques and strategies you use are memorable.



### Why are games memorable?

**Games are familiar:** We have been playing games since we were children. We understand how they work.

**Games are safe:** They allow us to lose without failing – to role play, imagine and pretend without negative consequences.

**Games are energizers:** They pique our interest and make us smile. Often, games make us get up and move around, increasing our blood flow and attention.

**Games are fun:** They motivate us to try harder and provide a surge of endorphins when we succeed.

## WHAT HAPPENS IN THE FALL OF 2020?

### Blended Learning: What You Need to Know

Today's classroom is more than a place – it's an experience. Modern learning takes place in a traditional classroom, on a mobile device, in front of a computer, and on the job.

That fact has become quite evident in the past month. Most of us have practiced blended learning – and we didn't even know it.

### **Blended learning includes learning experiences that take place inside and outside the classroom.**

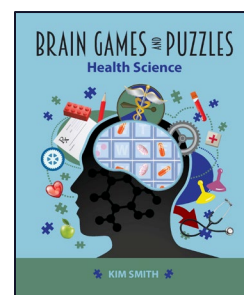
You already manage learning outside your classrooms when you give homework, assign projects, or sponsor a CTSO. While not a new approach, the AMOUNT of "outside the classroom" learning may increase in the months to come.

The goals and expectations of Health Science Education won't change, but the way in which you deliver learning opportunities might. Educators must begin now to determine what concepts can successfully be mastered in an e-learning environment, and what needs to happen in the traditional classroom. Prepare now, and you will be ready to ensure the success of your students in tomorrow's blended learning environment.

### Games for e-learning!

*Brain Games and Puzzles: Health Science* and *Brain Games and Puzzles: Anatomy & Physiology* are sold in PDF and Word formats on a flash drive, making it easy for the teacher to select specific learning activities and attach them in Teams or other online learning platforms.

Go to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and search [CreativEd Services](https://www.creativeservices.com).



*The Health Science Educator*, published by CreativEd Services in collaboration with NCHSE, is a free monthly newsletter for health science professionals at the middle school, high school and collegiate levels.



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***We'd love to hear from you!*** Send us an email and share your experience with using the ideas in this newsletter or let us know what you would like to see in future issues.