Student Engagement: Enhancing Student Achievement and the Appreciation of Learning in High Schools

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Figure 1: Engaged and motivated students with digital technologies and social media (Google images of high school students with digital devices, 2017)

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This is a way to bring science and math closer to the students and make them more “user friendly.”
QUESTION

How can teachers improve students’ success and their appreciation of learning content in science?
Answers

• Student Engagement and Motivation
• Social Media and Digital Technology
Why do students seem to lack an appreciation for the learning of the course content?
Problems

- Ignoring students’ perspectives, opinions, and ideas
- Regarding only the decisions and points of view of teachers, administrators, policy makers, and parents
- Student’s lack of involvement and engagement
- Less time on interactive activities and less active roles
- Failing to appreciate the intrinsic value of the curriculum content
- Low attendance, achievement and graduation rates
- Disregarding use of social media and digital technology
Question

How Might Students Be Helped to Develop an Appreciation for Course Learning?
Consider students as the best “source of data and a force for data collection and analyses”

Listen to the students’ perspectives and opinions, then regard their viewpoints

Consider the students active engagement and Involve them

Focus on learning activities, which support students’ autonomy

Provide students with a high level of challenge for their tasks and skills

Transform learning to a “real-life and real time for students”

Let them choose according to their own interest

Be selective in choosing the curricular content

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• Let them demonstrate their abilities, skills, efforts, and capabilities by being involved and intellectually engaged in learning
• Encourage them for collaboration and communication
• Motivate and engage them
• Foster students’ intellectual and institutional engagement
• Provide them with your feedback and encouragement = give them a feeling of enjoyment = flow experiences = a state of deep absorption in an activity that is intrinsically enjoyable
• Help them to believe themselves that they can perform well = an efficacy in student engagement
Question

Why Is Student Engagement Important in the Process of Learning the Course Content?
Answers

• Bring them “a sense of belongingness and commitment.”

• Reflect a student’s “concentrated attention, interest, and enjoyment,” which counter boredom, alienation, apathy, laziness, and lack of interest with instruction and education.
Question

Why Should Teachers Engage and Motivate Their Students?
Problem

PISA 2015 Results:

68% of fourth-grade students and 43% of eighth-grade students enjoy learning science and this rate decreases dramatically by increasing the students’ grades in high schools.

(OECD, 2016b, p. 121)
Average Annual Increase in the Percentage of the Intellectually Engaged Students

(Adapted from Dunleavy, Milton, & Willms, 2012, p. 6)
Question

Why Does the Use of Social Media Motivate Student Learning?
22% of teenagers log on to their favorite social media sites more than 10 times a day.

More than half of adolescents log on to a social media site more than once a day.

75% of teenagers now own cell phones.

25% use them for social media.

54% use them for texting.

24% use them for instant messaging.

(Schurgin O’Keeffe & Clarke-Pearson, 2011, p. 800)
Result

Now, they are extremely engaged and concentrated on activities = Complete involvement = Intellectually engaged in and motivated by their learning = Experience serious personal, psychological, and cognitive investment in learning = A feeling of content appreciation
Key Factors of Student Engagement that Effectively Impact Students’ Achievement and Their Success

• Encouragement
• Interest
• Enjoyment
• Creativity
• Collaboration
• Communication
• Concentration

(British Columbia Ministry of Education, 2015; OECD, 2016c)

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Intellectual Engagement

“a serious emotional and cognitive investment in learning, using higher order thinking skills (such as analysis and evaluation) to increase understanding, solve complex problems, or construct new knowledge.”

(Willms et al., 2009, p. 7)
Conclusion

Enhance Students’ Appreciation for Learning and Their Achievement in High School with Engaging, Motivating Students, and Utilizing Social Media and Digital Technology.
References

• BC Ministry of Education, Provincial Reports: https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/province.php


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