Lauren Huntington

Technology Integration

10-28-15

Nearpod is an application that allows teachers to create interactive mobile presentations. The app or website can be used on any device and linked to any device, and presentations can be completely created and customized by the teacher. The site also gives teachers access to already-made lesson plans and presentations.

Nearpod allows teachers to combine slides, multimedia elements, and assessment tools during a class lecture or presentation. The assessment tools can be quizzes, typed responses to presented questions, and/or drawings on the screen. The teacher can make any presentation live which allows students to see the presentation on their own device with a simple access code. The teacher is still in complete control of the slides with a live presentation so when the teacher advances the slides, the students' slides also advance.

The students are asked to sign in to the live presentation after they enter the access code, which will allow their names to show up on the teacher's screen. This allows the teacher to keep track of who is in the session, and engage their individual responses as well as track students' comprehension in real time. It also gives the teacher the opportunity to instantly collect and share answers, or not share answers, submitted by students.

After each nearpod presentation, the teacher can easily generate a report on the session that will show the participation of each student. This can be printed so the teacher has a hard copy of the students' assessments.

A team of educators and entrepreneurs, to bring both a successful model for engaging students in the classroom, and a successful business model, developed Nearpod. They seem to have accomplished both tasks. Nearpod also allows outside educators to become "authors" where they can share nearpod lessons and presentations that they developed themselves. Each lesson or presentation made available through nearpod meets the standards attached to that subject. There is an application process to become a nearpod author, and it is a way for teachers to make a little extra income, while sharing their passion for education.

The purpose of the development of the technology was to enhance the old idea of classroom lectures and PowerPoint presentations by giving the students opportunities to be involved interactively in the teacher's presentation, while also bringing technology into the classroom.

Nearpod is a technology that can be easily accessible in nearly every classroom. Whether a school is equipped with one-to-one iPads or computers, or students have smartphones, or maybe just access to a computer lab, students can be engaged with nearpod. If students do not have access to technology, but the teacher does, nearpod can still be an effective presentation tool. It can simply liven up a PowerPoint presentation by easily embedding videos, links, and other multimedia elements. And the best part is, nearpod is free, so there are essentially no costs. Nearpod does offer some free pre-made lessons and presentations, and also some that do come with a price. Most are available for $2.99.

Nearpod can be used to engage students at all grade levels in any subject. The most effective implementation of this technology involves each student in the

presentation of material by the teacher through a computer or other device. Providing assessements throughout the presentation keeps the students engaged, as well as using multiple multimedia elements such as videos, animations, simulations, or links to other sites for exploration and reading.

It's a great way to lay the foundation for material, gage students' understanding of the subject, and get students involved in the classroom.