

*Dear Parents,*

As I continue to research and study the transformation of education in the 21st century, I have discovered a very popular new teaching method called "flipped learning".

Traditionally, a lesson is taught by the teacher during class time. Homework is then sent home to be completed as a way to reinforce the skill that was taught. Flipped learning is the exact opposite. A lesson is taught to the students at home, then the skills are practiced and reinforced during class time the following day. Sounds confusing, right? How can a lesson be taught to your child if the teacher is not there?

A flipped lesson usually involves a homework assignment where the student watches a short video that the teacher created, which would be very similar to the lecture that would have been taught in class. The following day, a majority of the class time will be spent practicing the skill that the students were introduced to the night before. This provides more time to extend learning for those who have mastered the skill, and intervention opportunities for those who may need individualized attention.

Flipped learning is most often practiced with older students. However, I believe I can modify this teaching method in order to benefit younger students as well. Here are some examples of the details and modifications that would make this learning experience appropriate for your first grader:

- Video lessons would be short - only a couple minutes long (3-4 minutes maximum). Because, let's be honest, no one can hold a first grader's attention longer than that!
- Any "flipped learning" homework would be completely OPTIONAL. I understand that not all students have access to a computer or internet,

and that their time on a computer might be limited. It is unrealistic for me to believe that this is a convenient task for all students and families.

- If your child does not complete the homework, the lesson will not go untaught. I will still deliver the instruction to the students. This approach will just allow me to focus *more* class time on enrichment opportunities and giving assistance to those who may need it.

- We are very fortunate to have access to BCPSOne at school and at home. Students are already experts at navigating around the BCPSOne site. All assignments and links will be provided through BCPSOne, which will be easy for your child to access at home. I will also go over the directions for each assignment with the students the day it is given.

- This will not become a daily occurrence! If anything, I would like to try this type of assignment once every two weeks or so, choosing only lessons that I believe are appropriate to be flipped.

- Since these assignments will be *OPTIONAL*, extra credit will be given to those who complete the assignment. It will not count against those who do not.

I am anxious and excited to try this modified version of flipped learning with my students. I believe it will be a great opportunity to take our learning to the next level. Thank you for being receptive and involved.

*Ms. Lederer*