

Religious Education Through Blended Learning

Christian Rada
Director of Marriage, Family Formation & Respect Life Education
Diocese of Brooklyn

Blended Learning Basics

- Blended learning is an instructional methodology that leverages technology to provide a more personalized approach to learning, giving students control over the time, place, path and pace of their learning.
- The Clayton Christensen Institute defines it as a formal education program in which the student learns in part through online learning, and partly in a supervised brick-and-mortar location away from home.

Method 1: Blended Religious Education using Approved Communication Method *with* *Online Platform*



1. The DRE/Catechist checks in on the student and family during the pre-lesson meeting. The catechist introduces the lesson using an approved communication method (Teams, GotoMeeting, Google Meets, etc.)



2. At home, students access content and submit assignments on the online platform by a due date.



3. Catechists review & support family post-lesson. Catechists introduce the next lesson and **repeats** the process

Method 2:

Blended Religious Education Using Approved Communication Method *Without Online Platform*



1. Before catechetical year begins, DRE/Catechist must provide a schedule breaking down each lesson for each meeting.



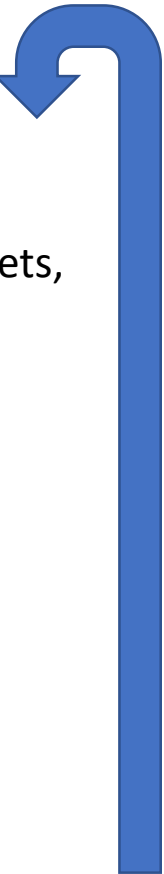
2. The catechist checks in on the student and family. The catechist introduces the lesson using an approved communication method (Teams, GotoMeeting, Google Meets, etc.)



3. At home, students access content using their E-Book and submits assignments to the DRE/Catechist by a due date.



4. Catechists reviews & supports student post lesson. Catechists introduces the next lesson on the schedule. The process repeats beginning at step 2



A Flipped Sample Lesson

Before family meeting with DRE/ Catechists . . .

- Assign a video to view with the family.
- Assign reading the chapter in the student text.
- Invite family to pray together.
- Ask students to be ready to recall what they've learned and shared in class.

During family meeting with DRE/ Catechists . . .

- Begin with sentence prompts.
- Dedicate time to a game, exercise, or project that reinforces content learned at home.
- End with reflection, prayer, and discussion with the whole family.

After family meeting with DRE/ Catechists . . .

- Evaluate the family meeting.
- Review and assess student work
- Reflect on the experience as a process in missionary discipleship and social change
- Review, Revise, and Repeat!

Tips & Things to Consider



MAKE SURE YOU TALK WITH YOUR PASTOR AND CATECHISTS BEFORE IMPLEMENTING A FLIPPED CLASSROOM! DIFFERENT PARISHES HAVE DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHIES ON GIVING HOMEWORK IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM.



COMMUNICATE EXPECTATIONS CLEARLY AND FREQUENTLY TO PARENTS BEFORE IMPLEMENTING. SEND AN EMAIL OR A LETTER EXPLAINING WHAT A FLIPPED CLASSROOM IS, WHY YOU'RE CHOOSING TO TRY THIS, AND WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THEM. HAVING EVERYONE ON THE SAME PAGE WILL HELP THINGS TO BE AS SUCCESSFUL AS POSSIBLE.



CHOOSE WISELY AND DELIBERATELY THE AMOUNT OF WORK TO SEND HOME. SEND MANAGEABLE AMOUNTS THAT CAN BE UNDERSTOOD WITHOUT A LOT OF SCAFFOLDING OR CONTEXT.



IF POSSIBLE, SEND HOME RICH MEDIA THAT WILL ENGAGE THE ENTIRE FAMILY. EXPERIENCES WITH VIDEO, AUDIO, ART, AND OTHER MEDIA WILL ENHANCE LEARNING.