10 THINGS

I'd Do As a Tech Coach

10 Coaching Essentials

What are the essential elements that contribute to a Coach's success? It's hard to narrow them down since Digital Learning Coaches have many roles and responsibilities. Here are my top 10 takeaways from my time in the DEL program at SPU.

1

Build Trusting Relationships

Educators pour so much of their soul into their craft that being vulnerable is hard. So as a coach take the time to develop trust and think carefully about how you can encourage, empower, and support the teachers you work with.

4

Don't Focus On Technology

The focus should be on pedagogy, content, and student learning. Coaches can help teachers focus first on student learning, and then choose the technology that helps students achieve those goals.

3

Develop Communication Skills

While most coaches are effective communicators there are certain skills that take intentionality and practice, such as setting norms, active listening, paraphrasing, and asking probing questions.

2

Expand Coaching Roles

Remember that being a coach is more than just being skilled and knowledgeable on a certain subject. Coaches also need to be adept at facilitating, collaborating, and being a catalyst for change.

5

Pursue Learning

Coaches need to work hard to stay current with innovative practices. They continually take the time to research, curate resources for teachers, and tinker with new technology.

6

Use Twitter as a PLC

Twitter is a fantastic source for educators to follow emerging technologies and best practices. You can curate resources and network with other teachers around the world. Twitter is also a great way to advertise the cool things that teachers are doing at your school.

7

Rock PD

Plan professional learning that is relevant, interactive, teacher-led, and sustained over time.

10

Work as a Team

Work in tandem with principals, librarians, building IT, and other coaches to improve student learning.

9

Fight For Equity

Advocate for every student's right to an equitable learning experience. Work on closing the digital divide and push curriculum developers to design tools and content that fit the needs of diverse learners.

8

Wisely Procure New Technology

Acquiring new technologies is exciting, but should be done thoughtfully and responsibly. Take the time to research, involve various stakeholders in the discussion, consider student demographics, and pilot new tech.