

including learning management systems that help distribute resources, such as Microsoft Teams and Google Classroom, and creativity-based solutions like Adobe Creative Cloud Express for Education. "Other tools really take formative assessment routines to the next level," she says. "There's an ability to add video and voice and increase participation by giving kids more access to share

using tools like Flipgrid."

November 2021

Technology?

higher, Burns says.

particular lesson.

RIDOFRANZ/GETTY IMAGES

More On

taken students on a virtual field trip.

Certain technologies have been popular classroom choices in recent years, according to Burns,

Emerging tech also is being used in instruction. Hall recently met with a sixth grade science

57%

The percentage of schools where content specialists or experts work with

teachers to bring technology into classes

teacher about students designing a 3D augmented reality model and projecting it in the

classroom with a tablet for a lesson on how weather and erosion affect land. She's also

"They could walk around in their physical space but be viewing Machu Picchu, which was pretty cool," Hall says. "It's becoming more common to see that kind of technology, especially in STEM-focused classes."

Augmented and virtual reality tools can help make visual, hands-on instruction more accessible

"Maybe students are going to complete science labs that would otherwise be too expensive or

dangerous," she says. "360-degree virtual reality video allows kids who don't normally travel to

Technology can help maximize instruction's impact by offering educators a more dynamic way

"If they're replicating a task they could have done without the computer, it might not increase

Incorporating technology kids use outside of the classroom into assignments — such as asking

students to discuss a particular character from a book — could help drive engagement even

"We might bring in new ways for kids to accomplish that assignment, like creating a podcast

where they interview a character, with another student in their class taking on that role," she

says. "It demonstrates their understanding and would be more relevant to the experiences

by eliminating barriers such as the cost of purchasing materials for every student, Hall says.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, "Use of Educational Technology for Instruction in Public Schools: 2019–20,"

engagement," Burns says. "But if they're using game-based assessments or video, and students are actually creating content, that's going to be more engaging than just watching a video and reading articles."

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travel. It opens the door to opportunities they might not have had."

to present information and directly involve students.

they might have as a consumer of content."

help educators offer more personalized, frequent instruction.

What Are the Advantages of Supporting Pedagogy with

"More teachers are seeing the benefits of tech and thinking, "I used to have to carry a whole crate of papers home to grade, and now I have access through Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams. I can see students' work in real time. I don't have to wait until they've finished a paper to

analyze it; I can provide feedback and support throughout the writing process," Hall says.

Today, there's no shortage of tech tools that could be used in instruction and pedagogical

Tech tools such as cloud-based file-sharing and communication and learning platforms can also

approaches. However, while bells and whistles may entice educators, items that feature them won't automatically guarantee student success.

MORE ON STUDENT SUCCESS: Data analytics show ed tech's impact on learning.

Technology, she says, has become much more enmeshed with pedagogy than when she began teaching 25 years ago with a single computer in the classroom. Educators may still be hesitant, though, to use new solutions and devices, even if they feel one might be a good fit for a

"Technology should be something that adds to your instruction," Hall says. "Teachers need to

think about the task at hand. What do you want your students to be able to do or know?"

pedagogy, they don't have to be experts when it comes to the tech tools, because oftentimes students are quick to pick it up and can actually show us things. If things go great, awesome; if they don't, course-correct. I can't imagine, and I'm excited to see, what technologies will help enhance learning in the next 10 years.''

"It's okay to fail forward," Hall says. "When teachers are trying to match technology with their

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