



How to Flip Your Classroom & Ensure It's Not a Flop

In every industry, trends come and go. The education space is no different. One trend that has shown remarkable staying power is the flipped classroom.

At its simplest, the flipped classroom is an instructional strategy that reverses the idea that class time should be used to impart content while homework is where students interact with the content. In a traditional classroom setting, the teacher primarily seeks to fill students with knowledge and then assigns homework for the students to practice what they learned. In a flipped classroom, students are responsible for consuming the instructional content outside the classroom and then students and teacher interact with the material, solve problems, complete projects, and do activities during class.

Just as it is a generalization to say traditional instructional styles mean teachers only impart knowledge and never do activities during class, the above description is just the general idea behind flipped classrooms. There are many ways to flip a classroom. Not all of them involve entirely flipping the classroom; sometimes teachers may only choose to flip certain lessons. Other educators go all the way and actually redesign their classroom to support the flipped style.

Benefits of a Flipped Classroom

1. **Students are able to learn at their own pace.** Because the content is usually delivered via video lessons, students can pause, rewind, and re-watch content as many times as necessary until they understand it.
2. **Parents can be more involved.** Most parents remember the time their child outpaced their knowledge on a topic and they were no longer able to offer much homework support. In the flipped model, students are consuming the content at home, and parents may listen to some of it and learn as well, if they choose. At the very minimum, it gives an opportunity for parents and students to talk about what the child is learning, fostering that critical educational success factor: parental involvement.
3. **Classroom time may be used more efficiently.** Because students - ideally - have learned the content on their own, they come ready to participate and contribute to the lesson.
4. **Collaboration and group work shine.** Doing the homework in class allows students to help one another, which is beneficial for both the advanced students who are helping and the students who need the assistance. Group work is also easier, because students have taken the time they need to understand the content at their own pace at home.
5. **Students get real time help.** Teachers have a better idea of who didn't understand the material and they get this feedback in real time as students struggle with the work. This enables them to see which students need support in the moment, rather than realizing later on when assignments are graded.

Flipped Classroom Design

Often a flipped curriculum leads to - and certainly benefits from - a flipped classroom design too. Pupils in small chair/desk combos in rows are not as equipped for project-based and collaborative learning. Whether an educator has the budget for new furniture and devices or whether they have to settle for simply rearranging things, here are some tips for reimagining traditional classroom design.

To Get Started

Push desk or tables together to create larger workspaces in which students face one-another. This enables students to gather around a project and be hands-on.

You can also arrange seating around a whiteboard (or interactive whiteboard, if you have one); this is called [campfire seating](#) and is a powerful trend in offices where employees need to collaborate. Students may take turns presenting their takeaways from the lesson to their small group at the board.

Also give students the option to work from the floor when the activity permits it. Comfy pillows or mats are an inexpensive investment, and students get excited to have any alternative seating options.

Depending on the subject being taught, consider a homemade maker's station. Our blog on [how to add a makerspace to your classroom](#) helps educators see how such a space is possible, even without a big budget.

To Really Go For It

If making a school or district-wide switch to the flipped model or even if a single educator plans to only teach in the flipped style, it makes sense to invest in the technology and furniture to support that instructional choice. Luckily, purchases that support a flipped model also reinforce the goals of most modern schools (and future workplaces): foster collaboration, effective communication and problem solving and expose students to as much technology as makes sense. With that in mind, here are our suggestions for furniture and technology designed to support a successful flipped classroom:

- Invest in pod learning tables, such as [these by MooreCo](#). These tables feature whiteboard surfaces for students to sketch or write on as they work through projects by themselves or in a group. The tables can easily be reconfigured in small or large groups to suit the project.
- An interactive flat panel touch table perfectly reflects the needs of a flipped classroom while giving students the opportunity to learn about the latest technology. The [Boxlight Procolor Table](#) offers 4k resolution and an app that allows up to four students to work on interactive lessons and perform assessments simultaneously.

If your educators, school leadership, or school district is looking to transition to the flipped classroom model, hopefully this article has offered some valuable takeaways. For more information on how to redesign classrooms for a flipped - or any other - model, contact Troxell's resident classroom design expert, Emily Cook by emailing Emily.Cook@trox.com or calling 800. 352.7912, ext. 1725. She will put her knowledge and experience to work for you.