



How to learn from the pandemic: Name, nourish, connect, and grow!

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Link to slides: https://learningforward.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Webinar__03-25-21.pdf

Contact info for the panelists:

- Jal Mehta – jal_mehta@gse.harvard.edu
- Neema Avashia – navashia@bostonpublicschools.org
- Justin Reich - jreich@mit.edu

Resources from panelists:

From Jal Mehta

- Jal Mehta's article in *The Learning Professional*: Crisis creates opportunity. Will we seize it? - <https://learningforward.org/journal/looking-ahead/crisis-creates-opportunity-will-we-seize-it/>
- From Quicksand to Solid Ground: <https://www.totransformteaching.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/From-Quicksand-to-Solid-Ground-Building-a-Foundation-to-Support-Quality-Teaching.pdf>

From Neema Avashia

- Neema Avashia's blog on worrying that we won't change enough: <https://www.wbur.org/cognoscenti/2021/03/17/imagining-life-after-the-covid-19-pandemic#education>
- Neema Avashia's Podcast, Episode #109 What They've Lost: <https://soundcloud.com/haveyouheardpodcast/what-theyve-lost>

From Justin Reich

- The Imagining September Project (full description of the project with links to participate): <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NO9oBqIUhuC3h5BOY1jaC1aLu1u5KAggEEiQpKJoxZs/edit>
- Here's a Twitter thread about the project: <https://twitter.com/bjfr/status/1372289605911855112>



- TeachLab with Justin Reich - Podcast: <https://teachlabpodcast.com>

Learning Forward resources:

- [New online course: Powerful Communication Skills for Coaches Cohort 2](#)
- [Supporting coaches and mentors through our professional services](#)
- [The Learning Professional: Looking Ahead](#)
- [Professional Learning State and District Planner](#)
- [Learning Forward webinars](#)
- [Learning Forward blog](#)
- [Learning Forward membership](#)

Things attendees learned this year that they plan to continue or amplify after the pandemic recedes:

- Focus on the "whole child".
- Collaboration/partnership with teachers across grades and schools.
- I learned that slowing down, and paring down, can yield deeper learning.
- Use of a Google Form for mental health check in weekly.
- Virtual professional learning and meetings expanding my PLN to a much broader peer group.
- Recording all remote PD so that teachers can watch, pause, replay, etc. as needed.
- The power of well-designed blended learning models that use a backward mapping design process.
- Learning to be thoughtful and taking time.
- Amplify equitable practices.
- Center on student voice - "Nothing about us without us."
- Learning can happen anywhere and at any time!!!
- Virtual Lunch Bunch.
- Mindfulness for resilience.
- Speaking up when I'm not okay.
- Virtual parent/teacher conferences.
- Accessing student and family voices.
- Inviting experts into schools from around the world.
- Collaborate with people across the world and not just with people who I can meet in person.
- Connecting with families regularly.

- Could contact children and family at any time. use to expand interaction through cool activities such as bed time book reading.
- To be patient, work together as a team and try and do better each day, focus on the students, make sure they are learning and understanding.
- We have enjoyed the family time together and slower pace. We appreciate what little things we are able to do safely.
- My colleagues absolutely rock! Collaboration is key across the board.
- Holding on to asynchronous training and self-paced learning for adults.
- Creating collaborative spaces for teachers, parents, and students.
- Break out rooms.
- Endless opportunities for collaboration.
- Openness to the use of technology to connect with other educators!
- Flexibility and parent connections are key.
- The power of self-paced asynchronous learning for students and adults.
- That it makes a difference when teachers build relationships with students' families and understand their cultures better.
- Take the time to build relationships first with educators and students.
- Essential Learning Standards will continue to be our focus. Our Instructional Coaches have been essential in our curriculum & instruction alignment PK-5.
- The importance of slowing down, being more mindful, and compassionate.
- Continuing to integrate technology to strengthen instruction.
- A lot can be accomplished virtually.
- Use of technology to connect, slowing down.
- Learned about virtual teaching. Lots of computer features.
- Centering student agency and choice.
- Learned to practice self-care.
- I have gained a wider view of what professional development can look like and how it can be more accessible to all.
- Teaching students how to ask for help is super, super important and infinitely more difficult online.
- Importance of giving others grace.
- Collaboration from all aspects of education makes us stronger.
- Chunking exercise over the course of a day - don't always have time for 30+ minutes at one time.
- How important it is to work as a team and supporting one another.
- Patience and grace.
- Maslow before Bloom.
- Making time to practice new ideas or how to use virtual tech tools can help reduce stress and anxiety in this new virtual world. More practice makes for more comfort plus all the grace to learn in the curve.



- Brave Space is a frame of mind that students & teachers can inhabit to promote healing & well-being.
- I gained more tech information.