# Breaking down the school walls – Tech in and tech out

Webinar
October 28, 2021

**Welcome!** We will begin shortly.

If you can see the slide and hear the music, you are all set.

All attendees are muted upon entry. Please use the chat feature for comments and questions during the webinar.

*learning forward*
THE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING ASSOCIATION

# Thank you for joining us

**The webinar will be recorded and available.**

All webinar registrants will receive a follow-up email that will include the webinar slide deck, recording, and other resources mentioned during the presentation.

Please introduce yourselves in the chat box

- Your name

- Your location

- Your role in the educational sector

@learningforward

# The incredible role of technology in the pandemic

# More work to be done to fill the homework gap

**Schools and libraries from every US state and territory:**

- Applied for $6.4 billion in Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) support
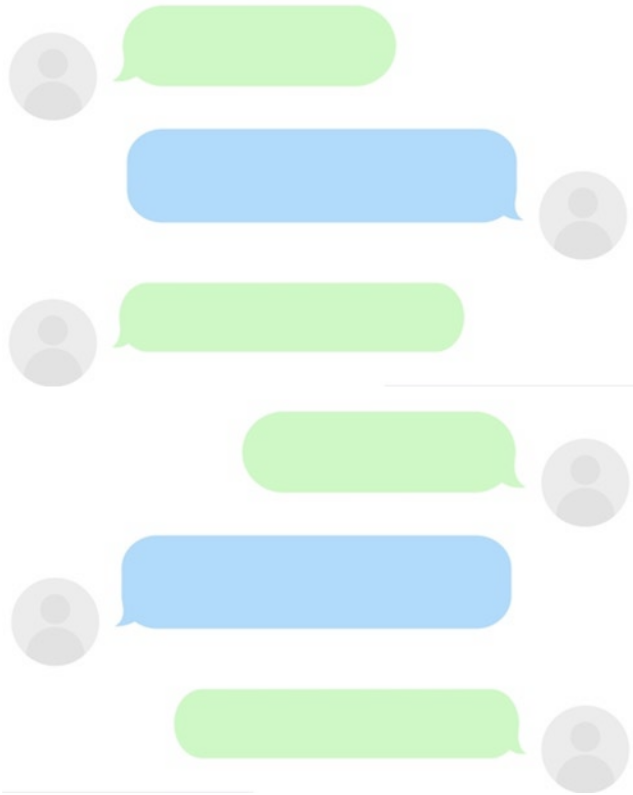- This was equal to more than 90% of the available funds

- Provided 11.5 million connected devices
- Added 6 million broadband connections
- Provides support for home broadband connections until June 30, 2022

# Technology supports and the next phase of learning
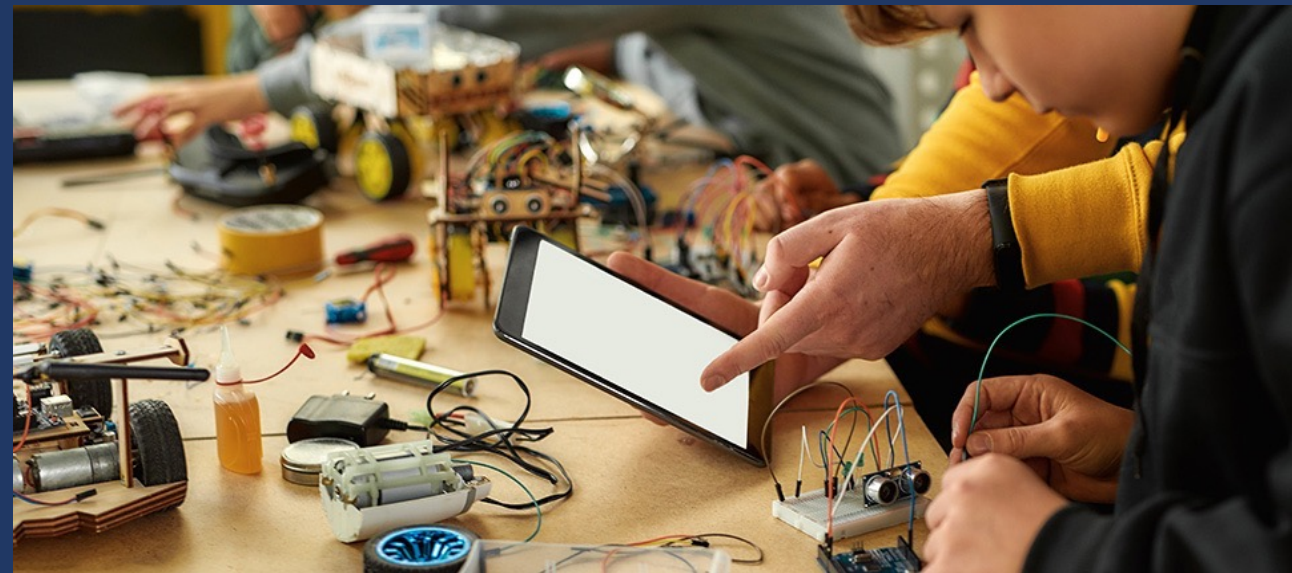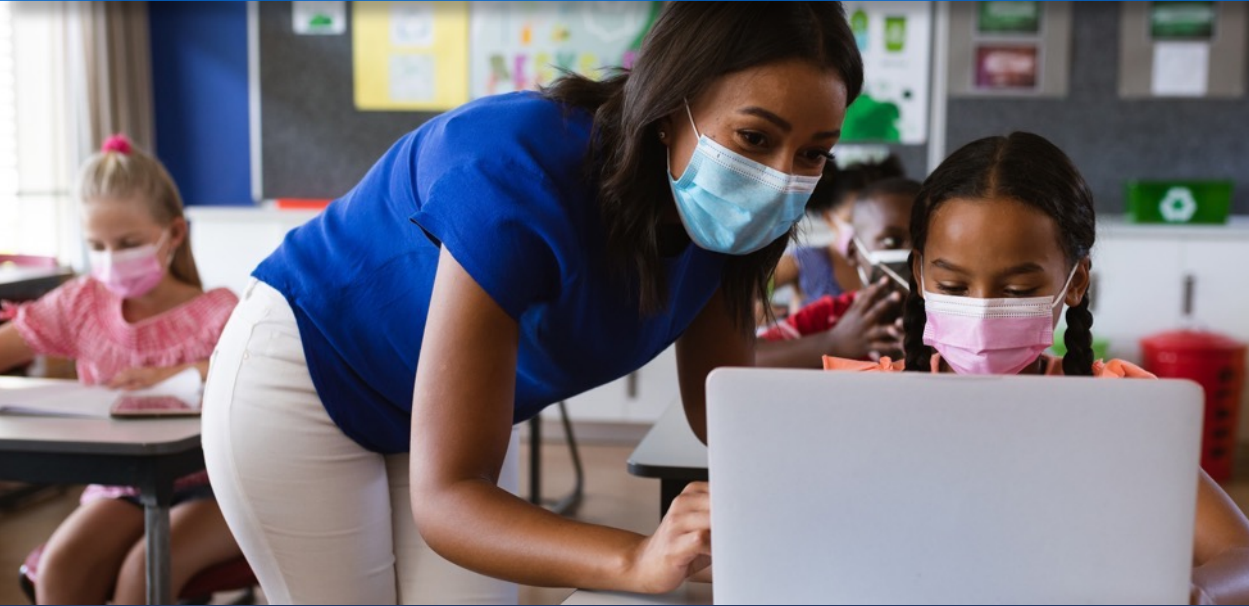
In the chat box, please describe a new use for technology in your students' learning environments since the new school year began.

**Pedro Dones**

Teacher Leader

Academy for Personal Leadership and Excellence

Bronx, NY



**Marcie Ebright**

Digital Learning Specialist

Akron Public Schools

Akron, OH



**David Timbs**

Director Secondary and Instructional Technology

Johnson City Schools

Johnson City, TN

**Pedro Dones**
[Big Apple Award 2020 Recipient](#)
YouTube:  [Mr. Dones Awesome Math Network](#)
Instagram: [dones_thebigaction](#)
Twitter: [https://twitter.com/dones_BIGaction](#)

- There has been the aggressive initiative to return to the status quo and "the way things used to be."  We have a unique opportunity to transfer the creative ways we delivered instruction during  remote learning directly into the classroom

- Online platforms that can be used:
  - [https://www.pixton.com/](https://www.pixton.com/)
  - Teacher run social media
  - Book creator

# Bones or No Bones

It is amazing what a pandemic can do...
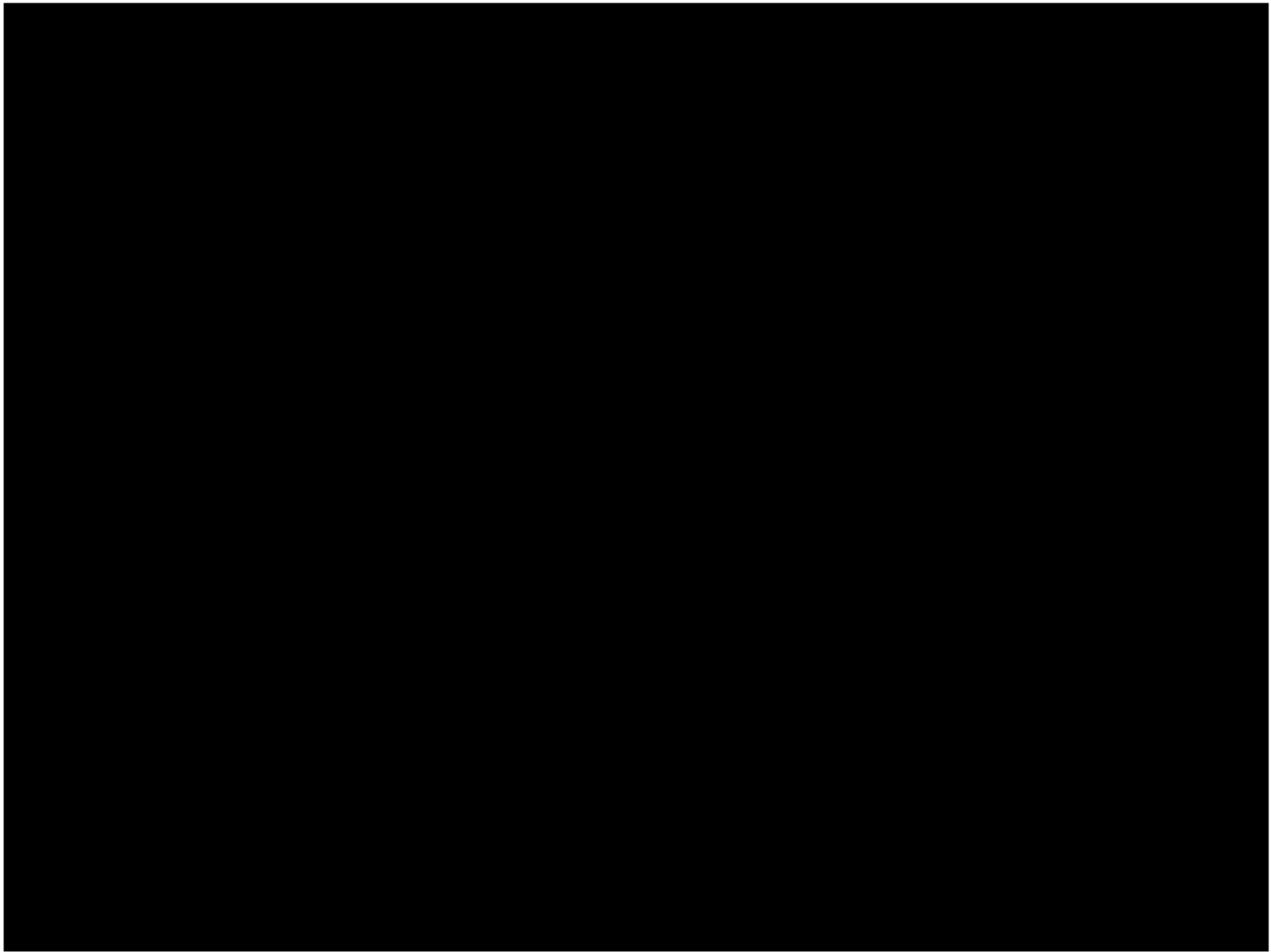
[Is it a bones or no bones day?](Is it a bones or no bones day?)

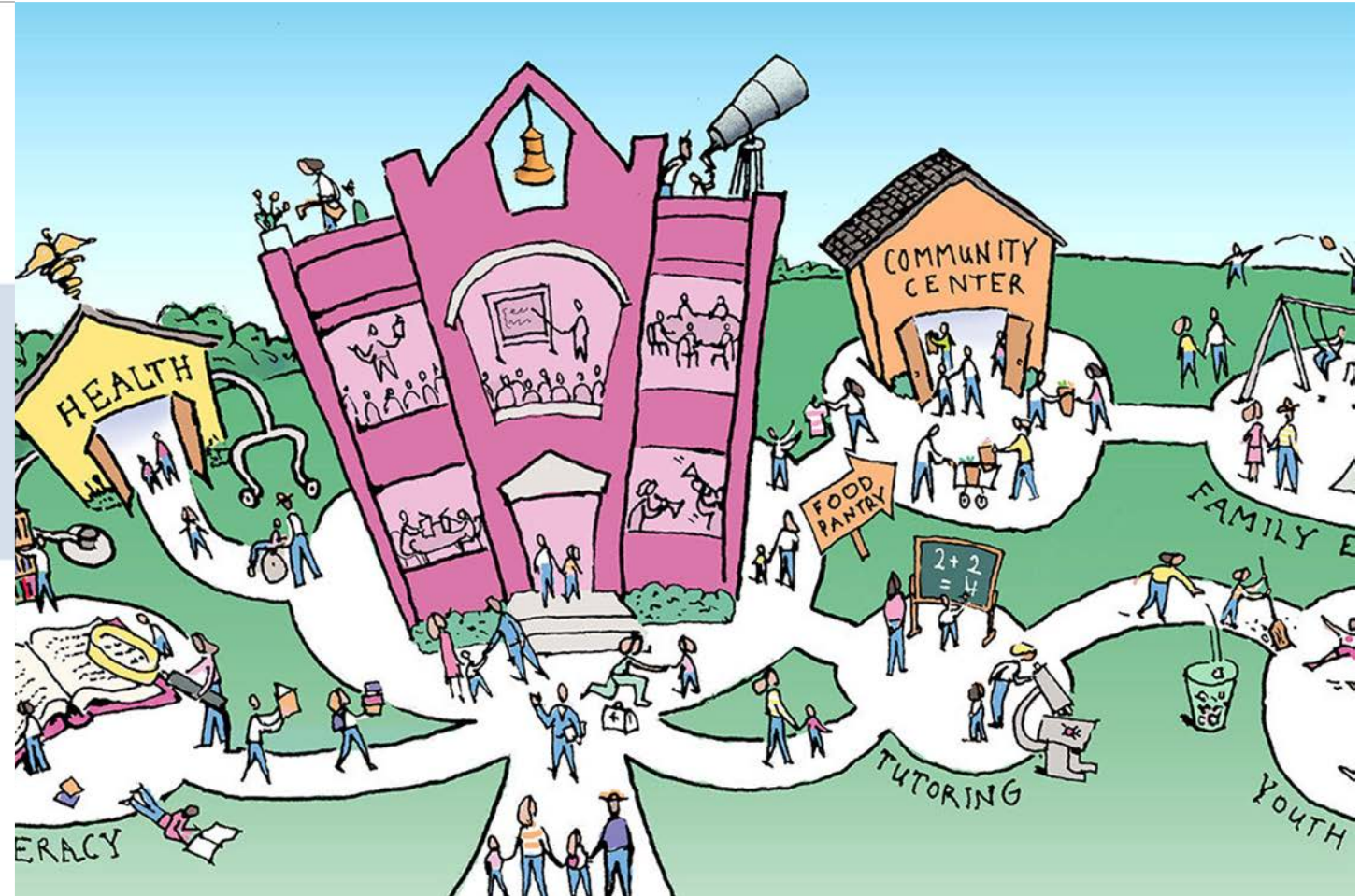How is the learning environment changing in your classroom, school or district as a result of the last 18 months?

# Community and Engagement

# PreK-12 Experiential Learning- Community



- Grades PreK-5  Essential Experiences
- Grades 6-12    Guaranteed Experiences

# Closing the Digital Divide

- Commitment
- Digital K-12 system for Identity/Career Exploration
- Student device and access
- Expanded hours of support
- Parent Education
- Access to technical support
- Commitment to bring forth the best of lessons learned

# Re-envision summer and back to school...



**Camp 1:** *Why is water important?*

**Partners:** ArtSparks and Akron Police Department

**Camp 2:** *Where do ideas come from?*

**Partners:** Akron Art Museum and Children's Hospital

**Camp 3:** *What makes a community?*

**Partners:** Hale Farm & Village and Akron Fire Department

# Re-envision Professional Development

# Returning to business of schools…

- Crisis
- Collaboration
- Staffing -Interview process
- Teacher Conferences
- Classroom Visits
- Appreciation of one-another
- Self-Care, Mental Health

# Suddenly.. FUNDING…

# Johnson City, TN



**Johnson City Schools**
*Expect The Best!*

- 8,098 Students
- Adopted Canvas: 2016
- Adopted Canvas Studio: 2020
- Adopted CASE Benchmarks: 2021

@davidjtimbs

## DISTRICT CHARACTERISTICS

**8 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (GRADES PREK-4)**
CHEROKEE, FAIRMONT, LAKE RIDGE, MOUNTAIN VIEW, NORTH SIDE, SOUTH SIDE, TOWNE ACRES, WOODLAND
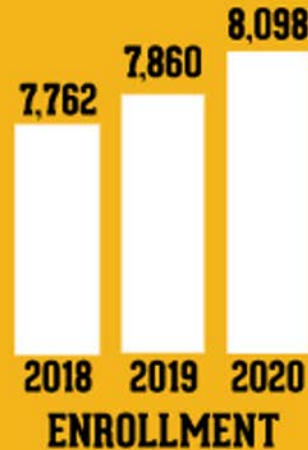
**1 INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (GRADES 5-6)**
INDIAN TRAIL INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

**1 MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 7-8)**
LIBERTY BELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

**1 HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9-12)**
SCIENCE HILL HIGH SCHOOL

**11 SCHOOLS**

**ENROLLMENT**
- 2018: 7,762
- 2019: 7,860
- 2020: 8,098

**58 HOME LANGUAGES SPOKEN**

**OFFER GRADES PREK-12**

**DISTRICT ETHNIC COMPOSITION**

| | |
|---|---|
| Asian | 4% |
| Black / African American | 15.5% |
| Hispanic or Latino | 12.2% |
| White | 67.9% |

**4.1%** ENGLISH LEARNERS

**13.2%** STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

**31.3%** ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED

# A Thoughtful Approach to Digital Learning

## Canvas Was Our Foundation For Growing Teacher Capacity

## Our Approach in Johnson City

**Two district-level departments focused on one purpose:** increasing student achievement through enhancing engaging instructional approaches with each offering unique tools and expertise

### WHY?

Have a conversation with teachers and leaders about why they believe tech-enhanced instruction will benefit their students. This may be a series of conversations.

### HOW?

Encourage specific identification of strategies, instructional shifts, and student activities that will lead to increased engagement and higher achievement.

### WHAT?

Generate possibilities within a given range of proven technology tools that will help individual schools meet their goals. We do not believe "one size fits all."

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## #JCSTechLeads helping district implement techniques with devices

Once the school day ends, more learning begins for Johnson City Schools' teachers. That was the case at Towne Acres Elementary during a technology professional development day for their staff.

Towne Acres teachers Lauren Temm, Patricia Taylor, Karen Bunch, Millie Robinson and Ryan Armstrong, who are all members of the Johnson City Schools' Technology Teacher Leaders or JCS Tech Leads, led the 25-minute sessions.

The idea of the professional development opportunity came from a staff survey that Towne Acres Principal Dr. Josh Simmons and District Literacy Coach JoDee Dotson sent to Towne Acres staff to see what the teachers' needs were.

The JCS Tech Leads program is in its third-year and ensures that the district is building capacity to not only integrate instructional technology into the classroom, but are also building a peer support system for teachers.

"When we started our Digital Transformation Plan in 2015-16, we quickly identified that we wanted to prioritize the training of teachers and the development of instructional strategies over the immediate purchase of devices," Johnson City Schools Supervisor of Secondary and Instructional Technology Dr. David Timbs said. "As part of this approach, the Johnson City Board of Education provided funding for our Tech Teacher Leader Academy. That program has now produced almost 60 teachers who have participated in intensive training, not just in the use of technology, but also the theories and models of blended learning.

"By building capacity among our teachers, we have ensured that principals have educators who can provide peer-led, embedded training and support to their

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*- Dr. David Timbs*
*JCS Supervisor of Secondary and Instructional Technology*

colleagues. These Teacher Leaders are one of our main arms of ensuring we 'get it right' when we ramp up the use of devices and we emphasize that our students are to use tech to produce and create not just consume content."

Approximately 60 teachers are spread throughout the

11 Johnson City Schools and teachers have an opportunity to apply to go through the Tech Leads academy each year. The Tech Leads are in the schools to provide assistance, advice, suggestions and support as teachers implement the latest technology strategies.

Bunch, who led a class about classroom applications Quizizz and Flipgrid, is in cohort 3 of the Tech Leads and said that she has enjoyed picking up new techniques and disseminating them to her peers.

"As Tech Leads, we learn about tech tools that we can use in the classroom to make things more efficient and to help our students," Bunch said. "So to bring those skills back and share them with our peers, it helps reinforce those things that we learn. It also helps me try out new things and to go out of my box just a little bit to try new tech tools with our students."

Other classes were led on how to use Nearpod and Google Forms.

The tech leader opportunity isn't only provided to day-to-day classroom teachers. Armstrong is a special education teacher at Towne Acres and he said that the use of technology for his students has helped them gain confidence by being able to track their positive progression through different digital applications.

"Through the use of different applications like Google Docs, read and write Chrome extensions, and iPad recording apps, my student's keep an ongoing record of their progress, projects and fluency checks, depending on their needs," Armstrong said. "Many of my students who need support are able to access the general curriculum through their teacher with the help of technology."

To see what JCS Tech Leads are up to, search the #JCSTechLeads on Twitter.

# Creating Spaces for Sharing & Learning

# Moving Boldly Into New Territory

# Getting Better at What We're Good At

- Taking what we've learned from the past 16 months and moving forward:
  - Importance of building relationships
  - Use of video in our instruction
  - Communication with families
  - Instructional technology use  grounded as a partner to  high-quality curriculum, alignment to standards, and high impact strategies
  - Working together to support one another
- Areas of focus for 2021–22:
  - Narrowing down our instructional technology applications and learning to use all facets
  - Choosing new applications deliberately and with an eye toward student engagement
  - Emphasizing student data privacy and network security
  - Leveraging teacher leaders to continue to provide updates, support, and insight

# Discussion and Questions

# Please fill out our post-webinar survey

https://www.surveymonkey.de/r/NBZ6229

# Mark your calendars

| Thursday November 4 3 pm ET | Thursday November 18 3 pm ET | Thursday December 16 3 pm ET |
|---|---|---|
| Focusing on Social and Emotional Learning and Student Success: Experiences and Resources | The Learning Principal: Living Equity-Centered Leadership | Coaching in a Blended World |

2021 is the year for transformation

# Thank you!