Adaptations of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in Response to COVID-19

JSSF Teacher Exchange 2020
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Overview of Adaptations for Covid-19

- All teaching/learning is distance learning (remote)
- The calendar and class schedule were changed
- The day starts later and ends earlier to limit Zoom time: one-half the normal classes meet each day
- Net result – classes meet for half the time each week compared to normal, on-campus schedule
  - Many teachers are adapting by covering less material
  - Some teachers are not – leading to heavy work load
Overview of Adaptations for Covid-19

• A few details:

  • Students and faculty have all been provided with tablets by IMSA
  • Students were provided with hotspots if needed
  • Classes were asynchronous or synchronous last spring
    • Grades were pass-fail last spring
  • Classes are synchronous with required attendance this fall
    • Grades are letter grades again this fall
Online Adaptations in Biology

• Originally 100 min classes, now 50 min classes
• Need to adapt curriculum for shortened time
• Need to rethink laboratory experiences
• Online quizzes have been challenging
• Internet issues have surfaced
• Engaging students online is much more difficult since they are postage stamp sized faces on a computer
Pathophysiology adaptations

• Using real life examples to teach the same content
• More interactive experiences
• More discussion in small groups
• Replacing lengthy online exams with smaller and more frequent assessments
• Using fun pictures to help motivate students
An introduction to organ systems
Effect of coffee on the body

- **Heart**
  - Your blood pressure will go up 10 to 15 percent, on average, after about 10 minutes.

- **Eyes**
  - Your pupils will dilate slightly — and you may actually be able to see better.

- **Brain**
  - You'll feel more mentally alert after about 10 minutes, thanks to the caffeine.

- **Stomach**
  - Gastric secretions will increase 10 to 15 percent — meaning you'll digest food faster.

- **Bowels & Bladder**
  - Your bowels and bladder will be stimulated (thanks to the caffeine and steroid-like compounds in coffee), leading to an urge to go to the bathroom.

*Yahoo! Health*
Discussion - How chocolate can increase your health!
Using chocolate to learn about the digestive system
Teacher Interaction

• What are some adaptations you have made for online teaching and learning?
• How difficult has it been to engage students?
• Has student attendance been consistent?
• How much support have you received from your school districts?
• Have you encountered cheating on online quizzes?
• Do you have any suggestions to enhance online teaching?
Contact us!

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Questions?
Thank you for listening!