

21st Century Skills

Solver

Managing Digital Information

Information is no longer scarce. In the digital age, we have access to information anywhere, anytime. Learners need to understand how to wade through massive amounts of information, discern quality, and validate its legitimacy. Learners also need to know how to synthesize information and leverage it to make decisions and get things done.

Complex Pattern and Relationship Recognition

Subtlety and nuance are important in this domain. Learners need to be able to manage seemingly disparate information and data to find emerging themes that lead to novel solutions.

Divergent Thinking

Learners need to understand how to consider multiple perspectives and points of view without judgment when making important decisions. Thinking critically and deeply, and considering all perspectives will allow learners to arrive at sound decisions, rather than being persuaded by the loudest voices or settling for the path of least resistance.

Connector

Communicate

Being able to speak clearly, write succinctly, listen intently, and use appropriate body language are not new skills, but they remain as relevant and critical in the 21st century as they have always been. It's about using these skills to build honest, open, and trustworthy relationships through authentic communication.

Collaborate

The word collaborate is derived from the concept of co-labor. Learners need to offer their best, understand the talents of those around them, and bring out the best in themselves and others in working and social relationships.

Perspective Taking

Empathy is endeavoring to walk in someone else's shoes and see things from their point of view. By developing empathy, learners can understand the perspective of others to better comprehend their thinking, intentions, emotions, and motivations.

Contributor

Curious Self-Starter

As Tom Freidman says, there's nothing more powerful than a curious kid. Learners need to be curious about the world around them, and be able to initiate self-directed discovery as owners of their own lifelong learning.

Grit

Learners need to develop a growth mindset. No matter how smart or talented you are, there will always be someone smarter or more talented. You won't always place first, or be recognized for your talents. At times you will give your best and it will go unnoticed. If you are alive, you will experience disappointment, rejection, and failure. Grit is about getting up after you've been knocked down. Learners need to understand: *It's not about the "setback," it's about the "getback!"*

Serving a Larger Cause

We all want to do important work. Contributing to a greater cause is intrinsically satisfying and gives life purpose and meaning. Serving others enables us to be the best version of ourselves. Learners need the opportunity to discover ways to use their talents, passions, and humanity and make their unique contributions to the world.