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## *Technology and Personalized Education*

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We, in the 21st century, are in the midst of a technological revolution. In this computerized era, companies are constantly creating more devices that simplify our lives and provide huge amounts of data and entertainment. There are devices for practically everything from winning wars to providing a numb stimulus of entertainment, and from saving lives surgically to manufacturing makeup. Why then can we not use technology to create personalized learning in schools? The next generation of students could enjoy a personalized education via addressing major learning styles and creating video classes. With the technology we have in the 21st century, education can become more personalized.

Schools should personalize learning for the next generation by addressing the three major learning styles – kinesthetic, audio, and visual – with the help of technology. Different learning styles refer to how people learn better depending on how they receive information. With the technology available in the 21st century, schools should be able to teach students according to these learning styles, and thus, personalize the students' education. Although it would be hard for teachers to instruct each part of a class differently during the day, teachers could give homework dependent on a student's learning style. Have you ever wondered why some kids cannot remember their multiplication tables, but can remember that to make a video game character jump they have to press alt+control+J+up? Most people are kinesthetic learners, (people who remember things they do with their hands and participate in), so reading a text book may not help them reach their academic goal, but teachers could assign kinesthetic learners virtual activities because when teachers may find it problematic to bring in an actual car engine or monkey's stomach for analysis, technology can easily produce these situations. The results would be almost the same for kinesthetic learners regarding virtual or real situations because the students would still be participating in the situation and using their hands to dictate the computer's actions. For audio learners, however, these virtual assignments would not have the desired effect; these students would learn better by hearing someone teach the lesson. Although a teacher usually lectures in class, homework – the tool used to help kids remember information – is usually textbook questions, where the students read the textbook and answer the questions that follow. This might be helpful for a visual learner, who learns effectively by seeing words, but an audio learner would absorb information better by listening to an audio file of the textbook on the internet or using a musical program to answer their questions in the form of a song. This type of song would be very helpful for audio learners because they would most likely not forget its words, and thus, remember its information for a future test or exam. Visual learners, as stated, probably find those textbook questions helpful, but they might be able to learn more with the help of technology. These students could look up articles that may not be in their textbook, and could type out their handwritten notes to allow them to see the words more precisely. Because these students learn by seeing, they would remember these notes and articles. Technology sensitive to learning styles should be used by schools to personalize learning.

To personalize learning, school should also use technology to create video classes – classes streamed live on the internet so students can participate in class activities and discussions no matter

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what their personal circumstance is or where they are. This could give students a chance to not miss classes and to learn in an environment that they find better suits their needs. This would be very helpful for students who have been homeschooled all their life and are trying to transition into the public school life. By attending a video class for an amount of time before joining the class in flesh, a previously homeschooled student could take the big step of transitioning into a new learning environment in smaller, baby steps, and thus make an easier transition into the public school life. This would help the child's education because it is very hard to concentrate on studies when the child is also focused on, and probably stressed/worried about, making the transition. Students in need of intensive care would also find video classes helpful to their education because they could learn the class curriculum in the safety of their home or hospital without the fear of someone bumping an extreme wound. A lot of times, students in a hospital do not have access to their school lessons and come back to school with a mound of homework to do in a short period of time. With video classes, these students could continue their classes without interruption, which would give the student time to soak in the information he is learning – a luxury not given to the unfortunate student who would have to wait to go to the classroom to receive his education. Also, with video classes, lessons would not have to succumb to days when the buses are not running: students, in their personal predicament of being stranded at home, could simply tune into the class online and not miss any discussion or activity being done with the students who do not rely on the busses to get to school. This would help move the class along without massive numbers of students having to be instructed on the same material the next day. Video classes would help schools personalize learning in the 21st century.

21st century schools could create a personalized education with the help of technology. Schools should try to achieve this education by addressing the major learning styles – kinesthetic, audio, and visual; and by creating video classes that will help students in different circumstances to attend class from a location other than the classroom. With technology's amazing possibilities, it must be able to create a personalized education.

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