



What's Nearpod and can I use it in my multigrade class? Yes! It's an educator-friendly tool that can be used to make any lesson interactive either for the classroom or for the virtual world. This tool can help the teacher create a presentation that can have polls, quizzes, videos, collaborative boards, and a lot more. It also has thousands of lessons already created by teachers like us that can be used by us.

Nearpod is student friendly. Students can access the teacher's presentation through a code that is generated when the teacher shares it with the students. Teachers can share it with one or with multiple students. The presentation can be in a student-paced

mode, where the student can control the flow of the lesson. The 7 reasons to use Nearpod this school year are:

1. **It's straight and can be easily delivered:** Nearpod is so simple to create that the teacher can use

- Google slides
- PDF
- PowerPoints
- Images (upload or get it from the web)
- Interactive activities
- Formative assessments that are easy for the teacher. Once she/he creates it, it will populate on the student devices, whether in blended learning or virtual learning.

2. **Teacher can improvise accordingly:** The beauty of it is that the teacher can use the presentation with one child or even for a group. The teacher can improvise the lesson according to what the student/students need. It can provide required support and key learning concepts by using videos and reviewing notes for the child who needs it.

3. **Teacher can have 100% engagement:** It is programmed in such a way that students can move with the teacher in a directed mode or a self-directed interactive presentation using any device.
4. **Teacher can use a variety of assessments:** Different kinds of assessments like formative assessment, ongoing assessment, and self-assessment can be used. The teacher can customize using quizzes, polls, open-ended questions, matching pairs, and the catch here is that the teacher can check the learning outcome in real time and adjust the lesson accordingly.
5. **Pedagogy:** The interactive features lead to a deeper learning experience while direct instruction is ongoing. It empowers students to collaborate and draws features allowing for alternate forms of assessment.
6. **Sharing and using premade lessons:** Teachers can go to the explore and click on the library to get hundreds of premade lessons that already exist. You don't have to sweat a drop and you'll have an interactive presentation on almost any subject from K-12.

7. **Grading:** Nearpod syncs with Google classroom and Google Classroom in turn syncs with our Jupiter Ed. Once you grade in Nearpod, your grades go straight to Jupiter Ed.

We the Southwestern Union teachers are blessed because we can change the lives of our children every day by teaching them about Jesus in our classroom through the curriculum. This school year some of us may have multigrade classrooms and be in person or could be virtual or blended. We have too much on our plates. Can we make it this year? Sure, we can!! Because we have a ray of hope from Philippians 1:6: "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it ..."

by Alwina Kindo
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