



# BUILDING THE PERFECT SCHOOL

## Highlighting the World's Most Innovative Approaches to Education

There are so many great, progressive, innovative approaches to education, rolling out in schools systems around the world right now. Wouldn't it be great if we could take the best of each approach, wrap it all together, and build the perfect school?

Here we highlight great examples of educational approaches, from the progression of teaching financial literacy to teens to incorporating mindfulness and mental health in the daily lives of students.

## CURBING BAD BEHAVIOR BY PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH

Meditation Instead of Detentions – **INDONESIA**

In a school in West Indonesia, when kids get up, they go to meditation rooms instead of the principal's office. Students have the opportunity to calm down and be more mindful. The school – partnered with non-profit Holistic Life Foundation for this program.



### The "Mindful Moment Room"

- Lavender-scented, bright room
- Pillows and yoga mats
- Trained staff and yoga teachers
- Students speak with staff about the reasons for their behavior
- Staff runs through breathing exercises and stretches with students



1/4 of Indonesia residents live below the poverty line

80% of students in this school qualify for free or reduced-price lunches

Some children at the school are homeless

### MEDITATION TO PROMOTE RELAXATION, PATIENCE & COMPASSION

Holistic Life Foundation co-founder, Andrea Christakis said in an interview about this school:

"I've had a kid come in and talk to me straight in the face with an emotion and say, 'my grandfather got shot yesterday' ... So you can imagine what these kids have to face"

British philosophy is the UK, 2007 The OECD Defining Digital as Educational Aspects of Learning helps persons mental health and emotional wellbeing by teaching



## A MODERN SPIN ON SCHOOL SUBJECTS + TEACHING STYLES

Getting Rid of Subjects and Teaching the Core – **FINLAND**



Finland is replacing traditional subjects with an interdisciplinary approach to topics.

### SUBJECTS

- MATH
- SOCIAL SCIENCE
- LITERATURE

### TOPICS

- ACADEMIC CLASSES INCLUDE:**
- World War II health + geography + history
  - The EU studying economics, history, language & geography
- VOCATIONAL CLASSES INCLUDE:**
- Working in a Cafe: Learn about economics, mathematics & language
  - Database Services: math, language & writing skills

### A WHOLE NEW CLASSROOM

Less sitting in rows facing the teacher → More collaborative group work and problem solving

### THE WHEELS ARE IN MOTION

70% of Finnish teachers have already trained in the new curriculum

2020 target year for rolling this out

1st group of students already learning under new system

### MEANWHILE IN FINLAND'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ... MORE RECESS AND EDUCATIONAL PLAY TIME



Kids in Finland schools responding well to less rigid approach of:

LEARNING through PLAY

4x FOUR DAILY outdoor RECESSES

LESS HOMEWORK than other COUNTRIES

The approach has led to great success in the following:

- FOCUS AND CONCENTRATION
- WELL-BEING AND PHYSICAL HEALTH
- RESILIENCE
- TEST SCORES
- ATTENDANCE

## KEEPING UP WITH TECHNOLOGY

Technology in the Classroom – **SINGAPORE**



Singapore's teachers-in-training are learning not only to incorporate tech into the classrooms of the future, but to see tech for real world situations that require abilities to life outside the classroom.



**CLASSROOMS OF THE FUTURE LAB:** Singapore's National Institute of Education, where teachers-in-training learn how technology can push their pedagogy to the next level.

In a classroom exercise in the VR immersive lab, the **smell of burning coal** and the **sound of alarm bells** signal that students failed to reduce **carbon emissions** and the damage of **climate change**.



- Video conferencing with international students to learn about other cultures
- New Teachers → Studying communication and soft skills + MUST UNDERSTAND benefits of Tech
- Digital texts added to classrooms

## BALANCING THE BOOKS: TEACHING FINANCIAL LITERACY IN SCHOOLS

FEBRUARY 2017:

Ontario government announced a financial skills module for 10th-grade Career Studies classes.

70% of students need to learn more about FINANCIAL LITERACY

63% of young adults in Canada believe it's important to LEARN FINANCIAL FINANCE while young

73% of young adults in Denmark have little to NO KNOWLEDGE OF INVESTMENT BANKS

ONLY 1/4 of young adults in the US know about inflation and how to basic interest calculations

### 2008 CRISIS SHORTFALL OF PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF FINANCES

- ill-informed decisions on mortgages
- OECD incorporate Financial Literacy in schools



### TEACHING KIDS HOW TO MAKE FINANCIAL DECISIONS IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX WORLD

Choosing cell phone contracts

Saving for the future

Avoiding consumer credit

Saving for old age and health care

"One of the reasons the rich get richer and the poor get poorer and the middle class struggles is debt is because the subject of money is taught in homes, not at school."

