Blended Learning: The Key to Personalized, Scalable Instruction?
Introducing a School to Blended Learning

- Common fears of implementing blended learning:
  - Administrative buy-in
  - Teacher training
  - Student training
  - Technology Constraints
  - Quality of instruction
Introducing a School to Blended Learning

● What we did:
  ○ Called Virtual Days
  ○ Two back-to-back days
  ○ Students stayed at home
  ○ Teachers came to school
  ○ 2 years
Addressing the concerns

- Administrative Buy-In
  - Presented as alternative to snow days
  - Short
  - Simple
  - Easy to implement
Addressing the concerns

- **Teacher Training**
  - Hosted multiple training sessions
  - Teachers given option:
    - Synchronous or Asynchronous
    - Most chose asynchronous
  - Chose 3 technologies and focused on them
Addressing the concerns

- **Student Training**
  - 1:1 program for all students
  - Provided video resources
  - Teacher’s ensured student access to tech prior
  - Teachers on call during their class time
Addressing the concerns

● Technology Concerns
  ○ Communication
  ○ Student devices
  ○ Internet connectivity
  ○ School lab
Addressing the concerns

● Quality of Instruction
  ○ Described as another class day
  ○ Class schedule and objectives dictate technology
  ○ Time frame
Pros and Cons

● **Pros**
  ○ Overwhelming success
  ○ Led to discussion of blended, hybrid, and online course implementation
  ○ Teacher free time

● **Cons**
  ○ Over-assigning of work
  ○ Requirement of all teachers to implement
Beyond Clicks:
Moving Blended Learning Toward Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships
Impact Academy
Henry County, Georgia

- Just south of Atlanta
- 7th largest district in Georgia
- 41,000 students
- 50 schools
- Diverse Student Population
  - 48% African-American
  - 37% White
  - 8% Hispanic
  - 7% Other
- 52% Economically Disadvantaged
Our Program

Created in 2012

- 2 part-time administrators
- 1 part-time counselor

Currently 2015

- 1 administrator
- 1 assistant principal
- 2 counselors
- 2 admin assistants
- 1 paraprofessional
- Staff for Exceptional Students
- Full-time Spanish teacher
- Adjunct teachers

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Grade Levels</th>
<th># Teachers</th>
<th># Students</th>
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<td>4</td>
<td>80</td>
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<td>6th-11th</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>6th-12th</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>630</td>
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Our Program

- Program of Choice
- All students have opportunity to join
  - Grades 6-12
  - Resident of Henry County
  - Enrolled in a Zone School
- Still eligible to participate in zoned school:
  - sports
  - clubs
  - fine arts programs
  - school organizations
  - and graduation
Our A' la Carte Choices

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## Our Support Cafe’ Schedule

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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
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<tr>
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<td>High School Support Cafe’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Middle School Support Cafe’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>High School Support Cafe’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Middle Support Cafe’ Day</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Professional Learning and Invite Only Day</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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Student Voice and Choice

A Culture of Opportunity Through Flexibility

Pace Time Place Mode
Pace

Learning is constant; time is flexible.
Place
Mode
Field experiences
Extra curricular

- Robotics Club
- History Explorers Club
- Book Club
- Science Olympiad
Family Events

Block Party

Haunted History Tour

Impact Academy Parent Group