

Interview with MS. RITIKA KUNDA

(Middle School Coordinator)



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Over the past year how do you think the students motivated and engaged themselves in an online learning environment?

Ms. Kunda: I would like to say that it is remarkable to see how students between the ages 12-14 years rose to the most challenging situations of their life, they motivated themselves with a little bit of help from the teachers and their parents. Most importantly I think they motivated each other. To tackle and adjust themselves to the new online mode of teaching.

2

What do you think would be the impact of blended learning on the teacher-student relationship?

Ms. Kunda: It will move from strength to strength, students will get an opportunity to express themselves in more creative ways, while teachers will get to be more innovative while imparting the curriculum as well as teaching the students to read and gather information beyond the textbook, lessons learned within the classroom can be given a stronger scaffolding with the help of blended learning.

3

Any difficulty you've faced while trying to cope with the online mode?

Ms. Kunda: New ventures always come with their share of challenges and the online teaching mode was no exception. The challenges that I faced were to keep the students motivated, trying to ensure that no one was feeling left out from the learning process and that students were gaining the skillsets required to equip them for the next academic session. Apart from this the emotional well being of the students was also another challenge as middle school students often find themselves unable to express their opinions and it is a challenge to find out from the two-inch boxes in google meet what was going on inside their mind and to help them out in whatever ways we can.



Continuation

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What accomplishment fills you with pride so far this year?

Ms. Kunda: The accomplishments of the students fill me with the greatest pride. Whether it be participating in Mitali, or winning accolades from the various events they have participated in, both inter-school as well as intra school, joining classes from different towns, we once had a student who had to join the online classes from across the ocean which must have been a huge challenge for her because it was not only a difference in the time zone but also keeping at par with all the classes and also missing out on all the fun activities but never giving up on the motivation, that was a huge accomplishment for her but also acted as an inspiration for other students who face various kinds of physical challenges. These accomplishments give all the other students a sense of motivation and inspiration. It is also a huge accomplishment for the school and the teachers.

5

After teaching and interacting with students on the online platform do you feel there are certain aspects of this online mode of schooling which we can continue in the future?

Ms. Kunda: Yes, definitely there are some aspects in the online platform which can also be continued in the future, for example; Kahoot, google forms, jamboards, etc which are some wonderful ways in which the teacher-student interactions can take place. These online platforms take the student-teacher interactions to a whole new level and the students get the opportunity to upload their short videos or PowerPoint presentations and share them with the entire class. Every student has a different skill set that gets highlighted in different ways when we use google classroom or other various online platforms which might not have had happened only in the normal physical classroom.

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Any memorable incident/highlight of this academic year?

Ms. Kunda: That would probably be coming back to school itself. Coming back to school after two years of online teaching has to be the most memorable experience of this academic year. To hear the exciting voices in the classroom, running feet in the corridors, and shouts of joy in the garden makes it all better. I finally have the opportunity to tell the students no more visiting the washroom!

