

CLASS CONNECT & DASH'S NEIGHBOURHOOD

TCDSB Case Study



AT A GLANCE

Challenges

- Need Virtual Solution
- Maintain Student Engagement
- Include Coding Options

Benefits

- Easy to Manage
- User Friendly
- Blended Learning Environment



"Class Connect allows us to introduce coding in a virtual environment, but also contains the opportunity for rich blended learning as needed in the next year where there are still many unknowns. Engaging teachers and students with Dash's neighbourhood also allows for the promotion of the Experiential Learning Cycle: Participate, Reflect, Apply. Where, after participating in some of the puzzles and activities, students will have the opportunity to reflect upon and consolidate their learning, to eventually apply it to a new context."

Rachel Allen

Experiential Learning Resource Teacher
for the TCDSB

THE CHALLENGE

Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) was interested in a classroom management tool that included virtual coding options, as education delivery moved online as a result of COVID-19. The overall goal was to maintain student engagement levels across elementary grades by offering an interactive coding learning experience that did not rely on physical robots and that was easy to manage remotely for the educators.

THE SOLUTION

Designed to augment Wonder Workshop's Dash robot and Blockly coding language, Class Connect provides a tool that teachers can use to monitor students' progress in real time. A user friendly dashboard provides updates on where a student might be struggling or excelling. Class Connect includes recommended resources to address various needs depending on ability levels.

Another feature is Dash's Neighbourhood, a virtual 3D environment where you can program Dash online using Blockly, without the need for a physical robot. This allows for a blended learning environment whereby some students may be at home without a robot and some in the classroom using the physical device, or the combination of the two.

THE RESULTS

Teachers were excited to use Dash's Neighbourhood as a way to engage, or re-engage their students during a difficult few months of education. They used the tool in a variety of ways including for large or small groups, live virtual lessons and independent learning. Once students logged into the platform, engagement was high, with many students across the board completing multiple puzzles in their first sessions.