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Creativity at school

Learning is making knowledge and it often takes place in interaction. The ideas will be refined in groups where students learn from each others. This should be strengthened in all stages of education more systematically.

Open assignments support particularly well creative work. Students have the opportunity to form their own opinion / answer and come up with their arguments. Self-motivated study contributes to the emergence of a genuine intrinsic motivation that leads to better learning outcomes.

Teachers should also present alternative solutions to the problems. By doing this students don't get the impression that "there is only one solution and all other solutions are wrong".

With the help of social media sharing, collaboration and networking is easier than ever. When it is used in a correct way, it supports creativity by providing users opportunities for self-expression and interaction. Therefore, it can be used to support creative learning and good working environment.

- Interaction wall (Facebook)
- Collaborative knowledge building (Wikispaces)
- Blogging

Social media gives people the opportunity to express themselves, share their ideas with others - to use their own creativity!

The school is a multi-disciplinary community where there are many points of view. Teachers should plan more cross-border tasks for students. It would be very good for creativity if different subjects could “discuss” with each other.

Some ideas and activities about creativity at school

- Students go out with their teacher. The pupils are given a subject to be discussed. Students walk with a pair and change pairs after a while. By doing this they will get many ideas and viewpoints around the subject. (Philosophy, psychology, religion...)
- Teacher gives students a task to find geometrical forms around them from the nature. (Mathematics)
- “I have given the students open lab-tasks, for example ‘Separate the mixture of sand, copper and iron powder’. Then I just gave a bunch of tools and said that go to work!” (Chemistry)
- Students make three or four “still-pictures” which summarize the plot of a short story or a chapter from a novel. (Literature)
- Making poems from newspaper news: a student takes a news and crosses out the words he doesn’t want to use. What remains, is a poem. (Creative writing) He can also make it to look like a piece of art. (Art)
- Performing cell organelles or running of nerve impulses with a drama. (Biology)
- Photographing of nature objects in different seasons. (Biology)

It is important to create a trusting atmosphere in the classroom. When students and teacher feel safe, they dare to try and even fail. When you feel relaxed, you can be creative!