An Update on Blended and Virtual Learning
What is currently going on at the middle and high school?

Blended Learning Geometry (8th Grade)
- VHS Collaborative curriculum is integrated
- Extended digital projects, such as the construction of an instructional website, supplement and transform learning

Blended Learning 6th Grade Gifted and Talented Math
- Connections Learning curriculum is integrated
- Blended model implemented to personalize learning
- Students also develop note-taking and collaboration skills

Blended 7th Grade Intervention English
- Half of the students on the roster work in the library at a time
- Deep learning in class
- Digital tools transform traditional application of knowledge

Blended 7th Grade Botany
- Half of the students on the roster work in the library at a time
- Blogs and other resources promote student ownership
What is currently going on at the middle and high school?

**Blended U.S. History**
- Half of students meet at a time
- Research skill built through year-long research project
- Student-led project fosters motivation
- 1-to-1 learning easier

**Blended Learning Honors French 4**
- Students work on digital projects in library
- AP students stay in class for AP-level instruction

**Blended AP and Honors Latin**
- Half of the students on the roster work in the library at a time
- Tailored instruction in class
- Learning management tools used to connect students in library
What is currently going on at the middle and high school?

Picking Up Steam:
- Blended Creative Writing
- Blended 9th Grade Geometry
- Blended AP/Honors German
- Even more are to come

Enriched Virtual Courses:
- Anatomy and Physiology
- AP English Language
- AP English Literature
- AP Statistics
- AP U.S. History
- Computer Science Honors
- Criminology
- Philosophy I
- Psychology of Crime
- Music: Fundamentals of Composition
- U.S. History
- Spanish 4

Virtual Curricula are blended with on-site teacher help. The Academic Facilitator creates a classroom experience, supplements online learning with additional assignments, and helps build good habits for 21st century learning.
What does Blended and Virtual Learning look like?

- Blended learning works at all levels
- Fosters ownership and motivation to learn
- Long-term projects and real-world applications
- Connects students
- Exposes students to college level courses
- Promotes college and career readiness
- Introduces rigor into curricula
- Blends traditional subject boundaries
- Allows for smaller groups and personalized learning
- Eliminates schedule conflicts
- Allows students to discover and follow their passions
- Transforms learning

Blended Learning is 21st Century Learning
How do we get there?
(The tools of the trade)

Learning platforms and digital communities
• Edmodo
• Kidblog
• Wordpress
• Digital textbooks

Digital Expression
• Popplet
• Screencasting

Digital Collaboration
• Google Drive

Digital Learning
• VHS
• Connections Learning
• Khan Academy
• IXL

And much, much more
Looking Toward the Future

Current state of College-Level Virtual learning
- More and more colleges are offering free online courses (Massive Open Online Courses)
  - EdX
  - Coursera
  - Udacity
  (To name only a few)

DESE’s Office of Digital Learning (doe.mass.edu/odl/)
- MA is onboard
- On their website, they have information, resources, and standards

Technology Tuesdays
- Year-Long professional development for teachers
- Teachers integrate education technologies in their classes
- Melroseblendedlearning.wordpress.com collects information for teachers