

differentiation that takes interests, learning styles, and expression styles into account can only be accomplished when teachers have the tools and resources that can be provided by this very creative use of technology.

There may never have been a time when so much debate about what should be taught has existed in our schools. The current emphasis on testing and the standardization of curriculum, and the drive to increase achievement scores has produced major changes in education during the last two decades. Yet at the same time, our society continues to need to develop creativity and advanced levels of inquiry skills in our students. As overpopulation, disease, political turmoil, war, pollution, and starvation increase throughout the world, the need for creative solutions to these and other problems is clear. The young people who will address these problems are in our classrooms today! The absence of opportunities to develop advanced investigative skills and creativity in all of our young people, and especially in our most talented students, is a loss of human potential that will have dire consequences of every nation's future. Investigative learning encourages students to become partners in their own education and to develop a passion for joyful, engaging and enthusiastic learning. As students pursue creative enrichment opportunities, they learn to acquire all of the 21st Century learning skills that will contribute to the reservoir of future scientists, writers, artists, leaders, entrepreneurs and knowledge-makers in all walks of life. These enrichment experiences provide opportunities for students to develop their gifts and talents and to begin the process of life-long learning, culminating, we hope, in the creative productive work of their own selection as adults.

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