

EXPERT CONTRIBUTOR



Teaching for Today's World

By Christopher Watson

Many of the top and in-demand jobs today were not accessible or did not even exist 15 years ago. These include jobs such as social media managers, drone operators, app developers, cloud computing specialists, driverless car engineers, sustainability managers, and the list goes on. All you need to do to find one of these jobs is take a drive down to Playa Vista and walk into almost any Silicon Beach office. There you will find entire job markets that previously did not exist. Additionally, research from the World Economic Forum estimates that 65% of students in elementary school today will hold jobs that currently do not exist. So, what does this mean for the future of education? It simply means teachers are preparing students for jobs that currently don't exist and to use technology that has not yet been invented in order to solve problems we don't even know are problems yet. Easy, right?

The question really is how do we prepare and teach our students to be successful in a future that is impossible to predict? Although dissertations can be spent on this topic, here is a shorter answer. We must teach our students to critically apply skills learned in the classroom to other situations. This ability to transfer skills and information to other situations will create successful individuals that are well adept to solving situations outside the classroom. At its core, this "transfer of learning" is simply the application of critical thinking. Being able to take information learned in

one situation and knowing when and how to apply it to another situation can be very difficult, but it is absolutely necessary.

If done enough times, the ability to transfer necessary skills from one situation to another using critical thinking becomes second nature. At Visitation School, it is not the goal of our English classes to have our students write an essay, but rather to be graduates who leave Visitation able to speak, read and write with conviction in any situation. It is not the goal of our History classes to have our students memorize dates and events. Rather, the goal is to understand historical perspectives that can be used to shape their opinions about current events and their future decisions. We want our students in Science class to know that doing an "egg drop" lab is not just about keeping an egg from cracking, but rather that there are external variables that must be accounted for and that for every action in life there is an equal and opposite reaction. Our graduates can understand cause and effect and use the scientific method to answer new scientific inquiries, whatever they may be. They also know how and when to apply algebraic and geometric skills from within a text and use them to build, engineer, create and solve new problems. These are some of the transferable skills and that is how Visitation School is educating students who can thrive in our ever-evolving world. ♦

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100% of our graduates get accepted into their first choice high school. Graduates have then gone on to become doctors, lawyers, CEOs, newscasters, and even an astronaut.

Stop by. We'd love to tell you more about how Visitation helps each student excel and reach their full potential.

Join us January 30th at 7pm for our Open House or schedule a tour to learn about our vibrant community. Enroll and give your child the gift of a Catholic Education.

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