

# EdTech grad featured in Time Magazine article on pros, cons of digital teaching

The sixth-grade classroom of EdTech grad Matthew Gudenius ('12) was the focal point of an article on paperless classrooms in the Oct. 20 edition of Time Magazine.

Michael Sherer, Time's Washington, D.C., bureau chief, discovered Gudenius' blog, and decided to spend a couple of days in his Calistoga, California, middle school to learn more about paperless classrooms.

Gudenius says paperless classrooms are not 100% digital, just like traditional classrooms are not 100% paper. Effective classrooms include discussion, group work, skits, science labs,

can then be shown in class. History lessons are enlivened by brief videos that run on individual tablets. And spelling, grammar and vocabulary exercises have the feel of a game, with each student working at his own speed."

Though Gudenius and his engaged students are able spokesmen for Constructivism's new paradigm in teaching and learning, the focus of the article was on paperless classrooms.

"Indeed, emerging research suggests that they may be reason for concern."

For example, he notes concerns about blue light emitted from monitors. But other environ-

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model building, and more. "The only component I am replacing is the paper," which he says represents a significant savings.

Technology integration for improving student engagement and learning is a central mission of Boise State's EdTech Department, and its effectiveness is apparent in Gudenius' classroom.

Scherer sat in the back of the classroom and took notes. Here's what he wrote in the article:

"Ask his students if they prefer the digital to the tree-based technology and every one will say yes. It is not unusual for kids to groan when the bell rings because they don't want to leave their work, which is often done in ways that were impossible just a few years ago. Instead of telling his students to show their work when they do an algebra equation, Gudenius asks them to create and narrate a video about the process, which

mental sources, such as cool white fluorescent lights, also flood us with invisible blue-spectrum light, which can lead to eye strain.

Scherer notes that pediatricians have been "warning parents for years to limit screen time for their children, but now the screens are filling up the school day."

Actually, the American Academy of Pediatrics website raises concerns about indolent, sedentary entertainment at home, not computer use in schools.

To balance the article, Scherer quotes a University of Arizona professor who says word processing improves writing skills by 20 percent.

In an after-publication discussion, Gudenius says he plans to write a response to critics of paperless classrooms.