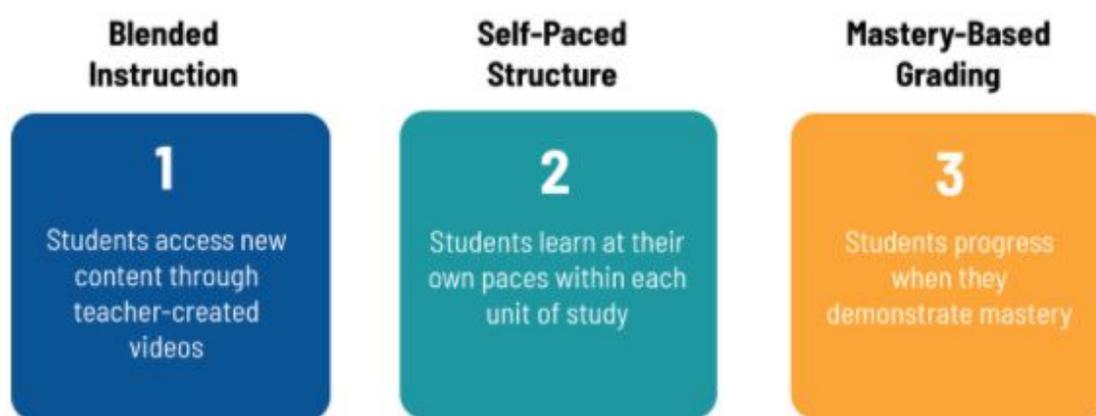


The Value of The Modern Classroom

The Modern Classroom is a research-backed instructional model that has been vetted by the Center for Research and Reform in Education at Johns Hopkins University. This instructional model was born from an understanding of one central principal: ***“Students learn at different speeds.”*** Wanting to meet students where they are at, the co founders of the Modern Classroom, Kareem Farah and Robert Barnett, decided to focus their educational research and modify their specific teaching practices in three key areas: Blended Instruction, Self-Paced Learning Structures, and Mastery-Based Grading.



Blended Instruction

To reduce the cognitive load on students and keep students highly focused on content and skill development, Farah and Barnett promote chunking information into smaller, shorter recorded lessons. Using audio and visuals opposed to just paper and pencil ensures that visual cues highlight key information to students. Blended learning allows students to access new content from teachers with premade instructional videos when they are ready to move on to ensure pacing is appropriate to each individual student.

Self-Paced Learning Structures

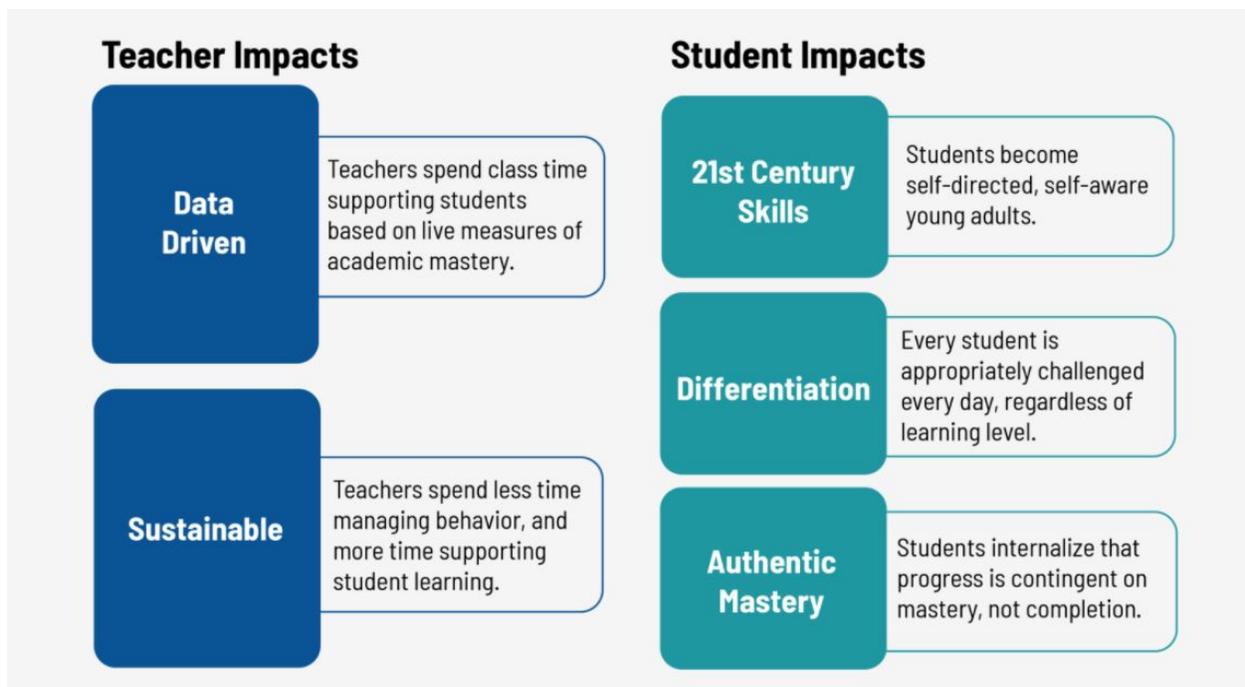
Self-Paced Learning is a student-centered instructional practice that values and attends to students' individual learning needs. Farah and Barnett push self-paced approaches to learning, those where students are provided learning tasks that they complete at a speed that is customized to their personal levels of mastery. In these learning environments, students can progress through the material based on their learning needs. They can take longer with material they might struggle with, skip topics that cover material they already know, or repeat topics as needed (Bray & McClaskey, 2010).

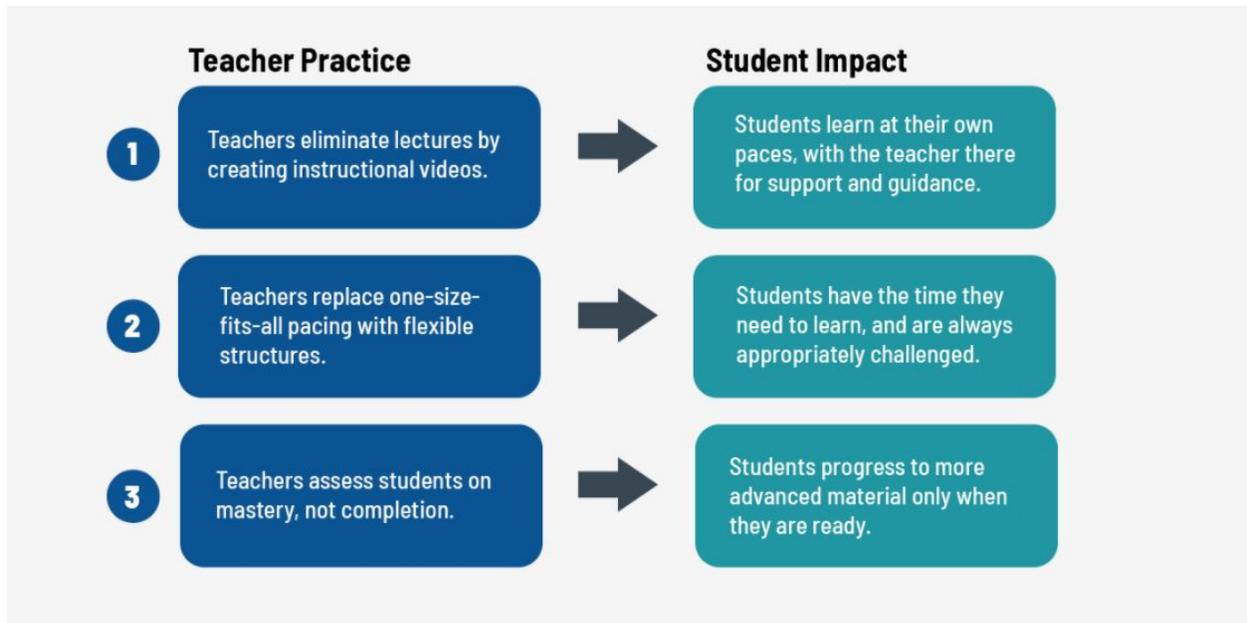
Master-Based Grading

Mastery-based learning refers to an instructional approach where students have to exhibit a certain threshold of competence with a task before moving on to the next task. In contrast with more traditional forms of instruction where all students are provided the same amount of time to achieve competence with a given skill before the teacher moves to the next topic, in mastery-based approaches, each student continues to spend time on a skill until they achieve proficiency (Dick & Reiser, 1989).

The Impacts of The Modern Classroom Model

This model builds self-confidence in students, differentiates for each students' needs, increases students self-regulation and collaborative skills, and only moves students along when they have mastered a content area. The Modern Classroom replaces the one-size-fits-all instructional model to a paced and flexible model conducive to student-centered learning. Every student is appropriately challenged every day, regardless of learning level. Teachers spend less time "standing a delivering content" and more time supporting students in small groups and one-on-one settings. And finally students are evaluated on mastery of a content opposed to completion of work.





References:

[Modern Classrooms Project](#)

[Research — Modern Classrooms Project](#)

[The Modern Classrooms Project: A Review of Research-Based Best Practices](#)

[How to Create a Self-Paced Classroom](#)