

New Educational Technology Supports Student Autonomy While Learning

JogNog Release 5.1 Supports Student Autonomy and Builds Self-Motivation

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Summer school vacation has started and so has the 'summer slump' when students forget so much over the summer that teachers in September will need to spend up to two months re-teaching students what they had previously learned. Motivating students to study over the summer is a near impossible task but student motivation will also be the most important factor in school success come September. There are, however, known solutions to turbocharge student motivation and even cultivate self-motivation.

In 1995 Professor Edward Deci published his landmark book "Why We do What We Do" where he showed that students were motivated to complete challenging tasks when they had three important things: a sense of community with others, the ability to achieve mastery and competence of the subject and the autonomy to pursue learning at their pace and in the areas that are important to them.

In schools today students often find the exact opposite of what Deci's research showed was critical. Rather than building community, learning is done in isolation with lecture and independent study. Rather than mastery or competence students are pushed on to the next subject before they fully feel comfortable with the current subject. And rather than allowing for autonomy and for the student to take responsibility for their own learning path they are often micromanaged by curricula that may not match their learning styles, desires or pace of study.

JogNog has made a giant leap forward in supporting these motivators that Deci's research showed to be important. This most recent release has focused on student autonomy.

With the 5.1 release of JogNog, teachers now have the ability to select a large number of learning modules (called "JogNog"s by the users) for their students and allow the students to select which modules they want to pursue at a given time. Previously teachers could only select 50 JogNogs for their classes but that has now been

increased to 400 to allow students maximum choice and ability to feel a sense of autonomy.

Students now also have control over the timer that is used for each JogNog quiz. They can decide if they want the excitement of the timer countdown or if the timer itself provides too much stress. Students also are rewarded by being able to build a trophy case of quizzes that they have mastered with towers of knowledge that become fully colored when they have mastered the content contained in a particular quiz.

Other important changes include the ability for students to be motivated by seeing that other students have sent messages about quizzes they have already finished. Teachers have greater control by being able to see an answer key for printed quizzes. And the passing rate of quizzes has been increased from 70% to 80%.

Steve Smith, CEO and co-founder of JogNog, commented on the breakthroughs of the new product release: "We've been surprised how teachers have motivated their students by supporting student autonomy. They've done this by providing a challenging task as a goal like passing the state standard tests but then giving the students the freedom to self-assess their weakness with JogNog and then focus on the most important topics that they need to learn. The students are held accountable for high level results but aren't micromanaged by the teacher. They take control of their learning and their engagement and effort is redoubled."

About JogNog

JogNog is an easy way for teachers to review the standards and topics that their students need to know for their state tests in Science, Technology and Engineering. When used regularly, JogNog has been shown to have significant positive impact on state test scores. JogNog is available on the web for Google Classroom and Microsoft Office 365 users and as an app for iPad, iPhone, Android, Chromebook, Kindle Fire, and Windows Phone. For more information about JogNog,

visit www.JogNog.com.

