



# Top Ten Lessons from *Digital Leadership* for the Current Crisis

Gleaned from Eric Sheninger's book, *Digital Leadership*

1. Leaders must understand that Digital Leadership isn't about "flashy tools;" it's about changing the **school leader's mindset** to use innovative ideas and digital strategies to prepare students for the real world. This mindset is sorely needed now.
2. Beyond simply allowing schools to accomplish emergency remote learning, technology has the potential to improve everything from teaching and learning to learning spaces and leadership practices. The crisis has quickly ushered in a need for technology; now the digital leader has an opportunity to ensure that **technology continues to be used for innovation**.
3. As educators, we have had to get comfortable with giving up some control. During COVID-19 we certainly can't prevent students from having access to their devices and the Internet all day, so this lays the groundwork for allowing students to **bring their own devices (BYOD)** when we return after this crisis.
4. School leaders are not expected to be perfect during the crisis since we are chartering new waters. What if we continue to **be transparent about our vulnerabilities** as we learn to become digital leaders after the crisis?
5. During COVID-19, schools are moving away from prepping for standardized tests and covering content. What if after the crisis schools stop preparing students to do *something* and instead prepare them to do *anything*? Schools could become vibrant and connected places that fully **integrate educational technology to support 21st century competencies**.
6. Schools should not integrate technology for technology's sake. While many schools have rushed into technology use due to the crisis, school leaders can now work to ensure that technology-infused instruction builds both **rigor and relevance**.
7. While everyone is taking a break from physical school buildings, leaders have an opportunity to **rethink the space and environment** to consider how it might be used for tinkering, open-ended exploration, individualized and group-learning opportunities, and other innovative learning purposes.
8. COVID-19 has made it impossible for in-person PD. Leaders can use this opportunity to expand their learning by developing their own online **PLNs (Professional Learning Networks)** and to encourage staff to develop theirs, too. In fact, right now it might be more feasible to carve out time for **PGP (Professional Growth Periods)** so teachers can explore their own professional interests each week.
9. Because communication is a top priority of leaders during this crisis, now is the perfect opportunity for them to follow Sheninger's advice to use a **wide range of media** (from Twitter to the Remind App to Facebook) to meet people where they are in order to communicate most effectively.
10. There are a lot of negative stories in the news right now, so it is vital that the school leader act as the **storyteller-in-chief** during this crisis. Think about the message you want to communicate and use a variety of media to reinforce that message.