A “Day in the Life” of an Educator

Leverage the full power of collaborative tools
As an educator, providing a complete educational experience and connecting the technology dots is a priority. It’s not just about using video conferencing in the classroom, it’s about creating a collaborative learning environment where it’s possible to integrate and work with students using multiple tools and technologies. From interactive whiteboards to laptops and mobile devices, it’s about creating a learning atmosphere that is up to date, engaging, and effective.

Polycom provides state-of-the-art video conferencing and collaboration tools that not only open learning experiences beyond the classroom, they transform the way you work throughout your day. Helping you to maximize your efficiency, save you time and personal energy to allow you to do what you do best: open the minds of your students to experiences that provide rich learning. How can you better integrate and fully leverage the power of the collaborative tools you have or want to use? This paper will help you envision what is possible and present the tools that can make it happen.

Why video, why now?

Today’s students have grown up using many different types of technologies, so schools have changed to keep up with the times and continue adapting to the way students learn best. Technology has shifted the definition of education from “storing information in the mind” to “being able to find and authenticate credible information then think critically and creatively in response to it.” Rigid, structured learning is giving way to a more fluid, on-the-go, learning-happens-where-you-are approach. This reflects students’ 24/7 access to their smartphones and mobile devices. Education happens on-demand, when and where students need to learn.

Educators are not exempt from this transformation. They have also changed and use technology in their daily lives almost as much as students do. If you are an educator frustrated that you can’t tap into the full power of your mobile devices to work smarter or connect all the aspects of your workday, you’re not alone.

Video collaboration technology enables us to break down the walls of the classroom and essentially move the classroom and the educator’s office to wherever there is Internet and webcam access. It’s not only for distance learning. Video collaboration tools are reshaping how education is delivered, and importantly, how educators experience their workday.
7:00 AM
It’s Monday morning, and time for your weekly breakfast meeting with the Dean of the faculty. You’re able to join this meeting from home while your family eats breakfast and prepares to leave the house. You dial in as a video conference with Polycom® RealPresence® Desktop or Skype for Business and easily collaborate with your colleagues, view and share content, all with the click of a mouse. You have more time to review today’s lectures notes before heading out since you didn’t have to leave home early. Or, if your child is ill today, you can opt to lecture from home via video.

10:00 AM
Your first lecture. You share annotations, make notes, and jot down ideas by using the built-in interactive software on your Polycom system, which helps you create a ‘video whiteboard’ for all to view. Your lecture is recorded and you will be able to edit it and upload it later for students who missed class, for flipped classrooms, or to provide distance learning to remote students.

11:30 AM
You have a dental appointment and while you wait, you check your lecture video analytics via your phone to see to what degree students are using the recorded videos. You read comments and understand what resonated with them and what they need further help with.

2:00 PM
You and your colleagues gather for training at your workspaces on campus and from remote locations. In the past, you would have had to drive or catch a train to attend these sessions at your faculty training center, which consume considerable time and expense. With Polycom, your training sessions are now conducted via video conference, in an environment that feels as close to life-like as you can get.

Lecture capture:
With lecture capture, students are no longer limited to in-class experiences. They can view recorded lessons anytime, anywhere from the convenience of their mobile device. This allows educators to spend more one-on-one time with students working on group projects, completing homework, and participating in more in-depth discussions—all during class time.
We know that the human element in a training environment can’t be replaced and Polycom solutions are designed so you truly feel as if you are in the same room. Sign-on, focus on who is speaking, as conference controls are intuitive and automated. One thing educators are faced with is the ability to integrate classroom VTC with Skype for Business. Today, Polycom can natively integrate VTC with Skype for Business and/or Office 365. Polycom® Acoustic Fence™ and NoiseBlock™ technology automatically eliminates non-human noise to minimize distraction. You can easily share content. The HD video and crystal clear audio quality mean that you can forget about the technology and focus on what is being said and shared.

4:00 PM
After another lecture, you hold office hours. But instead of students finding their way to your office, you interact face-to-face with them via video. You respond to messages and find you have several students asking about the same issue, so you record and post a short video to further explain the topic. You easily edit and upload the day’s lectures and homework notes.

5:30 PM
It’s time to head out of the office and go on a long run to unwind. Thanks to video collaboration, your work-life balance has improved considerably. You no longer need to spend long hours at the office, you can interact with students on the go, on a device of your choice. The Polycom® RealPresence® Mobile app enables you to video or voice conference from anywhere, and soon interacting one-on-one with students via your tablet is second nature.

8:00 PM
After dinner and homework with your kids, you email your students to remind them that the lecture recordings are available on-demand through Polycom® RealPresence® Media Suite. If you are using a flipped classroom approach, students will view the lecture before class tomorrow, where you’ll engage with them in rich discussions and group work. You prepare your lecture notes for tomorrow and tuck your kids in into bed.

As we have walked through this day, your time and energy have been leveraged so that you can focus on providing personal attention and guidance to your students no matter where they are located. By bringing the classroom to you and your students wherever they are via video conferencing, you open up space for deeper engagement, collaboration, and communication.

Voice in education:
Voice conferencing helps connect remote students and institutions, even when video conferencing isn’t available. Students and educators alike can utilize HD voice to engage multiple institutions and communities in an effort to enhance educational opportunities.
Collaborative education applications

Administrative empowerment
- Administrative meetings
- Increased productivity
- Inter-campus communications
- External relations such as alumni reach
- Safety and security
- Interviewing and recruitment
- Team projects

Academic offering
- Educational equality
- Campus extensions
- Degree/non-degree programs
- Advanced placement and dual enrollment
- Curriculum enhancement
- Virtual field trips: content providers and subject matter expertise

Collaborative learning
- Global studies
- Tutoring
- Cross campus collaboration
- MBA/EMBA mobility
- Lecture capture
- Curriculum exchanges
- Professional development
- Continuing education
- Student projects

Extended reach
- Cross functional communications
- Enhanced research projects
- Student services
- Parent and community communications
- Project coordination
- Paging/intercom systems
- Facilities management

Taking it from theory to practice
Polycom recently completed a study among educators globally to gain insights into technology needs within the education sector. We found that there is a need for professional development in the use of new technologies. Two questions have continually come up:

Is there a right way to integrate technology into the classroom?
The answer is there is a better way to integrate technology into your learning environment. The tools that Polycom have innovated and offer are intended so educators can do more with them than just hold video conferences or offer distance learning. We understand that learning environments must maximize every investment, and our tools are designed to do just that. Polycom is here to help you do more with what you have.

How can you do more with these tools?
The following are ways to take video collaboration from theory to practice.

Connectivity, collaboration, and virtual field trips
Learning technologies, and evolving pedagogical methods, are not only changing the way we teach, but also the physical environments we teach in. It is both physical and virtual, mobile and engaging, personal, yet scalable.

You can use video conferencing technologies to link up with other schools around the country or world, giving teachers and students access to global knowledge and expertise.

Polycom offers programs and resources developed by educators who have met the challenge of effectively integrating into a learning environment. Our tools are designed to provide users with quick, easy access to the rich resources needed to enhance your curriculum.

A majority of respondents believe that the education sector will be investing in Virtual Learning Environments (VLE’s) in the future.
Better workflows

With Polycom video collaboration tools, you are able to access and share content, participate in virtual meetings, hold lectures no matter where you are located, interact face-to-face with students via mobile devices, track student analytics, and customize your workstyle around your life. You regain ownership of your time, and can attend to work, help students, meet with other faculty, continue your own training—in a way that works for your family life. Administrators can hold meetings, communicate with other campuses, increase productivity, and leverage video for recruitment and interviewing.

Student-to-student collaboration

Video collaboration tools empower students to connect with other students for group work, homework help, project collaboration, and learning support. They are able to use their mobile devices to login to study groups, attend “class”, interact with their educators, meet with academic advisors, and learn in a style that suits their individuality and preferences. Classrooms can be connected to classrooms in real-time, across the world, take virtual field trips, listen to guest speakers, get help from tutors, and feel more connected and cared for by faculty.
Professional development

Educators are able to pursue their own continuing education and professional development without having to take time off from class. Through video collaboration, you can attend and participate in training from any location.

The applications for video technology continue to expand as students and educators evolve new ways of learning, interacting, and instructing. Polycom is committed to leading innovation in video collaboration technology to support the future of students and educators around the world.

Polycom Grants can help you reach your goals

Polycom offers a grants assistance program to help find funding for video collaboration tools. Learn more at www.polycom.com/grants

Step into the classroom of the future, today

Having access to the right technology alone is not enough, educators need to learn how to use it. It is vital that technologies are fully integrated into teaching methodologies and learning environments, both physical and virtual, to unleash their true value for education. By doing so, you will ensure students are equipped with the skills and knowledge they’ll need to thrive in the workforce of the future. Education technology isn’t a “nice to have” anymore—it’s critical to the success of all students throughout their education and to the future of educators, as well.
About Polycom

Polycom helps organizations unleash the power of human collaboration. More than 400,000 companies and institutions worldwide defy distance with video, voice and content solutions from Polycom. Polycom and its global partner ecosystem provide flexible collaboration solutions for any environment that deliver the best user experience and unmatched investment protection.