

**21st Century Teaching and Learning
Waterloo Region District School Board 2012**

[MUSIC]

[ANIMATED INTRODUCTION: COLLAGE OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WORKING TOGETHER WITH TECHNOLOGY. TEXT ON SCREEN READING Waterloo Region District School Board Future Forum Class]

[TEACHER AND STUDENTS IN CLASSROOMS USING TABLETS, COMPUTERS, SMART BOARDS. TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADERS BEING INTERVIEWED.]

STUDENT: We have three hours in this classroom and they fly.

STUDENT 2: Way more activity than my normal classes.

STUDENT 3: I can problem solve way better.

STUDENT 4: I always wanted to blog but I never really thought I could actually do it. I loved it.

STUDENT 5: It's not boring.

TEXT ON SCREEN: Digital Learning Strategy

NARRATOR: The Futures Forum Class is one initiative from the Digital Learning Strategy in the Waterloo Region District School Board. It involves Grade 10 students, teachers, and administrators enrolled in English, Civics, and Careers courses.

MARK HARPER: We need to keep moving forward and we need to engage students where they are now.

KEN WHYTOCK: They can explore their interests within the parameters of the curriculum and become independent learners.

MARK HARPER: Our system success plan is focused on instructional practices, it's focused on the learning cycle, use of assessment for learning, it's focused on instructional leadership, and that's embodied in the Futures Forum Classroom.

TEXT ON SCREEN: Description

GREG REED: It runs over 2 periods as opposed to 1 and we've encouraged them to bring their own tech and be involved in the Wi-Fi.

STUDENT 6: Instead of just sitting down with a group of people around me I get to interact with a group of people I've never really met or talked to and we can have these discussions and we are connected through it

GREG REED: It's 12 high schools all with a Futures Forum Classroom and those teachers collaborating and making sure that they're together and producing the same things. So unusual in all sorts of facets but most of all the collaboration

KEN WHYTOCK: If you walk in mid-year or towards the end of the year you see students working more independently and the teachers going around acting as a coach, a co-learner – asking students probing questions, getting students to think about what they're doing and go deeper.

TEXT ON SCREEN: Features, Benefits

KEN WHYTOCK: I'm not just creating a project for the teacher, but I can create a blog. That's not just for the teacher now, that's for the world. Real-world, authentic projects.

KIM KEENA: And students that never had a voice in the class, the quiet ones that sat at the back, that they're now engaging and they have a voice.

EMILY SCHMUCK: And one of the hugest revelations that any of these kids has is when they get someone who isn't in the classroom commenting on the work that they're doing. Someone who's not in education who found their blog through Google.

STUDENT 5: You can learn a lot more I find with all of the technology that we have access to.

TEXT ON SCREEN: Connections

MARK HARPER: Our goal in the Waterloo Region District School Board is to have students improve their ability to communicate their thinking in writing, and the Futures Forum Classroom is providing us with another opportunity, another way to help students become effective as communicators and thinkers and to communicate that thinking in meaningful ways to authentic audiences.

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