Narrator: Classroom educators share insights about how they are intentionally incorporating technology-enabled teaching and learning practices to support student learning. Teachers acknowledge the importance of fostering a growth mindset, because a student’s interest in learning and their belief that they can learn is critical to their success.

Michelle: My students are expecting more from me as a teacher than any students before. They want to be engaged in their learning, they want to know that their interests are valued. They’re interested in real world connections.

Sara: There’s so much out there. There’s so much online, there’s so many apps, there’s so many possibilities that you just have to take one little idea and run with it.

Penny: I like to introduce at least one new tool a year. It’s a technological world now, so students tend to gravitate to wanting to go – they’re more engaged. As soon as they know they can do their work online, their classroom management’s easier, I see the collaboration.

Peter: I’d say change is good. And I think it’s re-energized me as a teacher. I come to school every day as a learner; as a teacher as well, but as a learner. And you become more efficient at what you do, and you see the kids naturally engaged.

Penny: If you kind of take a back-step and let the kids kind of go, it’s amazing what kind of learning comes out of there. They’re getting way better at giving each other feedback. We’ve done a lot of work on that; they’re not coming to me as much, like, “Is this right? Is this what you’re looking for?” They’re going to each other.

Clark: In class, our goal is a lot of student learning, so discussion-based classes, hands-on activities that don’t involve just opening a textbook and doing 20 questions.

Shawnda: I’m a paperless teacher, so I don’t have a paperless classroom if students feel that they want to print their notes, they can. So we differentiate with respect to that. But that’s not what makes me a 21st century teacher, or any person a 21st century teacher. Technology is a tool, and technology is something that we can use to support our teaching and support student learning in a variety of facets.

Brenda: I can usually give students one period of exploration on a new software, and then I’m really using them as co-teachers of that classroom.

Craig: You’re not going to be the most knowledgeable person with technology in your classroom. That’s a given. You’re always going to have a couple of students, if not more, that are just – love technology, they live and breathe it, and they’re going to be experts. So, I would say empower them. Have them be that other tool; what app are we going to use to do this? You know, we’re doing order of operations today. What do you guys think would be a great app to use? And you’re going to leave that for your homework tonight.
Michelle: About four years ago was when I got involved in Google Docs, and at first, I was just using it the same way I used to use Microsoft Word, just to type up their essays after they had handwritten them. When I started to see the capability of kids working together within the document, and then I started to connect it to what their workplaces were going to look like in ten years, I realized I really needed to dig deeper with Google Docs.

Peter: Parents enjoy it as well, because now I have an eLearning site where I post examples of projects that my students are working on.

Parent: It’s so important for our parents to be involved with what’s happening, and to understand and to ask questions. And so, as a parent, if you have a question about what’s happening and how your kids are using technology at school – ask.

Parent: You realize that it’s not just technology. They use technology to help, but they still do teaching and everything else, so it was good to know and to understand that.

We were content consumers as 20th century learners, whereas now, students have access to information; content at their fingertips. So they’re now creating with the content that they have available to them, and actually changing the content.

Shawnda: I’ve had to definitely sit back and reflect, and we have a growth mindset for students for sure. And we also have to have a growth mindset for teachers, and for all of us as individuals, and know that we can do some really fantastic things. And I only have to work and believe that we can all do that.