

Case CVE at Madrid (Spain): We are a community

Prof. Dr. Paloma Díaz
Computer Science Department
Master on Educational Innovation
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

On March 11th 2020 the local government of *Comunidad de Madrid* closed all educational centers to avoid the coronavirus spreading. Online learning and teaching was strongly recommended and free resources were made available through the EducaMadrid website. March 15th the whole country was declared on a state of alarm and the lockdown started.

Having access to resources is not enough to successfully implementing online teaching and learning. It provides formal empowerment, but not the intrapersonal skills and attitudes to be able to keep students active in such a disruptive situation. In this case we describe how the Colegio Virgen de Europa (CVE) school has been striving to involve teachers, students and families trying to create a learning community committed to keep the educational process alive during this very stressing period. Since the very beginning of the schools closure, CVE that already has an educational online platform for communication purposes and uses google classroom and tools, decided to cover all K12 levels as well as kindergarten. The case describes how different initiatives and activities are being performed to engage all members of the educational community.

Teachers, you are not alone

One of the main challenges of the forced model change is feeling able to teach online in a stressing situation. To support teachers in this process, the last day of school the CVE ICT department organized courses to prepare all them in the use of the technologies that were already available at the school. These group meetings not only provided knowledge on the available resources but something more important, they contribute to create a sense of being part of a community. In too many occasions, teachers are facing this situation alone increasing stress and frustration. Seeing you colleagues as peers in this process is both encouraging and inspiring, since it is also a perfect occasion so share best practices. Meetings were maintained during the lockdown to strengthen the sense of belonging and for improving coordination.



CVE teachers' training before schools closure



CVE Teachers sharing experiences from home after the lockdown

The bell is ringing, go to your online classroom!

CVE school decided to teach all the topics at all levels to maintain the educational activities as regular as possible. Since the school was closed, online classes started at 9 in the morning and ended around 5 in the afternoon, with some recess and lunch break, mimicking the normal schedules. This commitment has implied proposing many different types of activities since topics as different as language, science, arts or sports have to be covered for students from all levels and ages. To develop all the required skills and keep students active and motivated, teachers have proposed creative pedagogical activities like homemade experiments for science, gymkanas for recess and sports, artistic contexts to use competition as an intrinsic motivator or math bingos to gamify education. This was only possible because the CVE school is strongly active on improving teaching methodologies with active pedagogies that include ICTs, since online learning cannot be improvised in a few days.



Arts session por primary school



K8 History online class



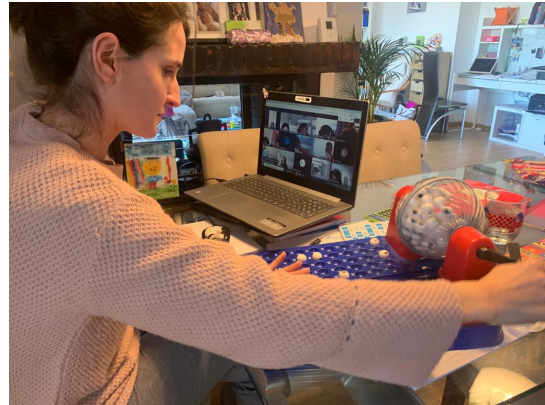
K11 Maths online class



Dance and English class for primary school



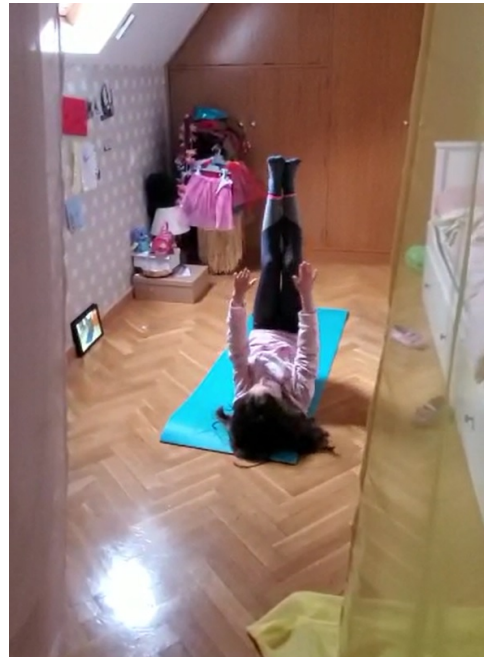
Online exam for IB students



Math Bingo for 2nd graders



Playing activity for kindergarden



Fit session for K7



Cooking healthy lunches at home for K12



Online class at kindergarden

Wanna keep playing the drums?

CVE school offers many extracurricular activities performed outside the regular schedule related to sports, arts, science, music or debate teams among other. Whenever possible, this kind of activities, which are strongly related with the students hobbies and preferences, are performed. Thus, the music school still teaches individual classes, the dance school and scientific workshops propose activities to students and some team

sports, including the hockey and handball teams, keep doing training exercises and meeting online to keep the team spirit. Both teams recorded a video where each member recorded a throw or pass simulating a group exercise. All recordings were later edited to produce a unique video that was distributed through social media. School teams also participated in an online Debate League with other schools and two contests of photography and short narratives about the lockdown experience have been launched to encourage creativity and self-expression and to collect memories from the school community.



Online music lesson



Video from the handball team

We are family. Sharing to create community

The school is maintaining constant contact with families through different activities and channels including the school platform and social networks. Thus, teachers and the librarian record videos to recommend their favorite books, daily audio prayers are distributed to start the day and open fitness classes are offered in the afternoon. CVE also has a strong presence in different social networks, including Instagram, Twitter or Facebook. These social profiles make it possible to share with the all community, including alumni, how teachers, students and parents are experiencing this situation. This school commitment in such a difficult moment is creating stronger links with parents, who appreciate the effort that teachers and managers are doing to try and keep active their kids and show back their appreciation through pictures and spontaneous rounds of applause after the video classes.



Fitness and stretching online class



Books recommendation by the Librarian



CVE families showing appreciation

