Future-Ready Learning

Empowering Students through Global Connections and Innovative Technology

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Introducing Dr. Julie Lindsay

Dr. Julie Lindsay is an expert in online global collaboration in education, with 35+ years of experience across six countries.

She has written two books, completed PhD research on global collaboration, and designed numerous international projects for K-12 classrooms.

She leads the Technology and Innovation Network and has received multiple awards for her work in educational leadership and specializes in using technology to connect classrooms worldwide.

Overview

This presentation shares concepts and practices for embedding online global collaborative learning into the classroom.

It shares case studies, examples, and steps for success that educators can follow.

A key focus is Online Global Collaborative Learning (OGCL), the Global Collaborator Mindset (GCM) and other models as scaffold for global learning objectives. Also, the integration of educational technology and emerging AI tools to support personalized as well as global learning.

Essential Skills for Future Success

- Data literacy
- Critical Thinking
- Creativity
- Emotional Intelligence
- Adaptability

February 2024 - https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/future-skills-age-ai-daniel-cohen-dumani-j1pte/

Current Educational Challenges

- **Outdated education system:** Current systems often fail to equip students with the necessary skills for the future job market.
- **Irrelevant degrees:** Many degrees do not align with the demands of the modern workforce, leading to high rates of unemployment and underemployment.
- **Lack of technology integration:** Insufficient integration of innovative technology in classrooms hinders students from developing the digital literacy skills required in today’s workforce
- **Limited Use of Educational Technology**: There is an inability to fully leverage educational technology to connect, communicate, collaborate, and create with others.
- **Classroom Walls Not Flattened:** Traditional classroom settings do not support intercultural understanding and global perspectives

Global Perspective

1 **Definition**

Understanding diverse cultures and issues beyond local communities.

2 **Importance**

Develops critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills.

3 **Benefits**

Fosters empathy, prepares for a global workforce, promotes active citizenship.

Solution Framework

Integrate Online Global Collaborative Learning

Infuse online global collaborative learning into formal curricula as praxis, not tokenistic, to meet essential academic requirements.

Develop Intercultural Skills

Develop critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Foster global citizenship, empathy and respect for others to break down stereotypes.

Enhance Employability

Prepare students for the global workforce where collaboration and understanding across cultures are increasingly vital.

Online Global Collaborative Learning (OGCL)

Defining

- Includes geographically dispersed educators, schools and learning.
- Uses online and open technologies to learn with others beyond their immediate environment.
- A pedagogy that supports curricular objectives, intercultural understandings, critical thinking, personal, social and ICT capabilities.

Key Benefits

- Fosters global citizenship and collaboration by working alongside learners from different parts of the world.
- Expands perspectives and helps develop a sense of interconnectedness and to value diversity.
- Intercultural communication skills through experience in navigating cultural differences and practicing cross-language communication

OGCL is also known as international or virtual exchange, cross-border collaboration, eTwinning (Europe) and global projects.

FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS

Glocalization and Global Collaborative Learning Practices

Think Global, Act Local

Glocalization encourages a "think global, act local" approach, broadening horizons while respecting local contexts.

Accepting Differences

Glocalization acknowledges cultural differences and tailors learning to meet the specific needs of diverse learners.

Finding Commonalities

Glocalization focuses on identifying commonalities between cultures while appreciating unique perspectives.

Curriculum Design

Glocalized curriculum incorporates real-world issues with local relevance and global implications.

FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS

The Global Collaborator Mindset (GCM)

Connection

Digital fluency in online & blended learning, building relationships for authentic collaboration.

Autonomy

Curriculum & teaching independence, along with digital freedom in creating learning experiences for global collaboration.

Openness

Embracing diverse perspectives, sharing resources, and communicating openly.

Innovation

Seeking & implementing new approaches for better learning outcomes, leveraging technology for collaboration.

FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS

Communication Modes in Global Collaboration

SYNCHRONOUS and ASYNCHRONOUS

Traditional Learning - SYNCHRONOUS

Separated by Location

Separated by Time

Flat, Connected Learning

ASYNCHRONOUS

Unified by the Internet

Unified by asynchronous communication tools

FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS

Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning Modes

Synchronous Learning

Such as Zoom and online chat effective for:

- Live discussions, Q&A,
- simulated shared learning spaces

Challenges include:

- Time zone differences
- Limited time for in-depth collaboration
- Over-reliance on synchronous modes

Asynchronous Learning

This mode sustains OGCL through:

- More flexibility and time management
- Deeper engagement with content
- Fostering trust and community
- Facilitating knowledge construction

Challenges include:

- Maintaining momentum
- Potential miscommunication

Blended Learning Approaches

- Blend both modes by recognizing the strengths of each
- Synchronous for launching and maintaining connections
- Asynchronous for deeper engagement and knowledge creation

Design Features for Successful OGCL

- Purposeful Integration for learning outcome alignment
- Cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional collaboration
- Alignment with assessment requirements
- Create a flexible learning environment for diverse learning styles, time zones and cultural contexts
- Focus on co-creation of knowledge for deeper understanding and critical thinking skills

Case Study 1: Anne Mirtschin's Global Classroom in Australia

Bridging the Distance

Teaches ICT Grades 3-12 and embraces global online collaboration, presenting internationally on global education and technology integration.

Building Global Connections

Seeks global connections for her students, aligning with the "Global Collaborator Mindset" and emphasizing the importance of a teacher's global perspective.

Overcoming Time Zone Barriers

Partners with teachers in Asia and the Pacific region, leveraging both synchronous and asynchronous communication tools.

Fostering Intercultural Understanding

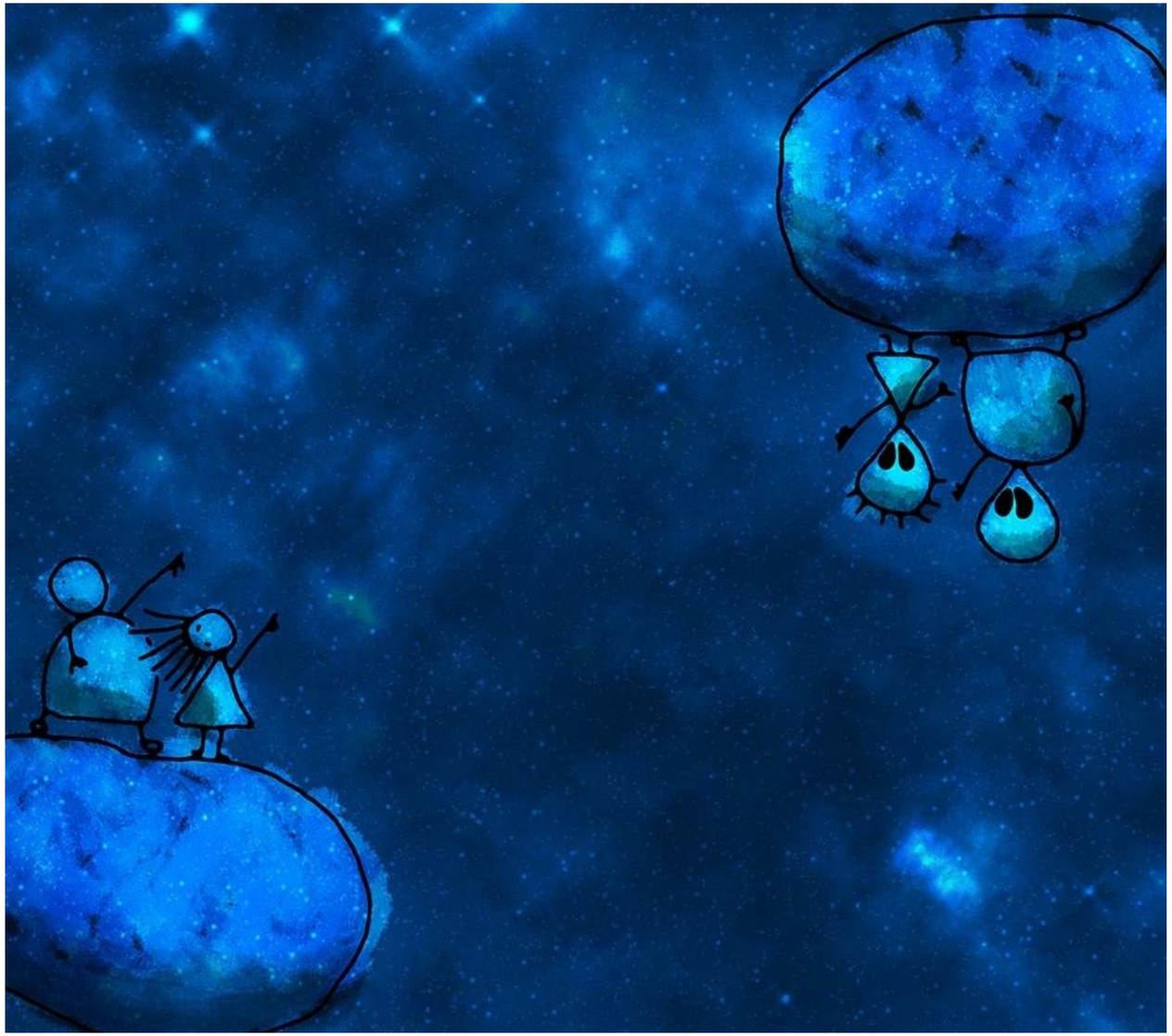
Encourages students to engage with global partners through various communication modes, despite language differences.

“I think when we collaborate globally, we learn just as much about those other people as we do about ourselves”

Anne Mirtschin

Local to global learning ….

…. reduces ethnocentricity



Case Study 2: Karen Lirenman and Early Years Global Learning

Innovative Approach to Global Learning

Early years educator in Vancouver, Canada, and has garnered recognition for her innovative approach to global learning. Uses blogs and video conferencing to connect young students with the world.

Connecting Through Shared Experiences

Classroom engages in activities like sharing pictures from their windows with students around the world and Zooming with classes who have just visited the same field trip location.

Focus on Student Choice

Emphasizes student choice in how they learn, demonstrate, and share their knowledge.

Implementation Guide: Getting Started

Build a Strong Network

1

Connect with other educators engaged in global collaboration to share ideas, find partners, and gain support.

Find Reliable Partners Design for Student Inquiry

2

Strong partnerships with educators in other countries are essential for successful collaboration. Allow students to drive their learning.

Choose the Right Tech

3

Select user-friendly, Web 2.0 and open technology tools that work for all participants, regardless of location or technology.

Manage for Success

4

Effective online global collaboration requires careful planning, communication, and monitoring.

Share and Celebrate

5

Share outcomes with the school community to highlight the value of global collaboration and encourage continued engagement.

Flattening the Learning: A Multifaceted Approach to OGCL

Breaking Down Barriers

This approach dismantles traditional power structures, giving students more voice and valuing everyone's ideas.

Global Connections

Technology connects classrooms across borders, fostering cultural understanding and international connections.

Student Empowerment

Students become active learners, asking questions, working with classmates, and taking ownership of their learning journey.

Cultivates a Global Mindset

This approach helps students develop a global perspective, appreciating diversity, understanding our interconnectedness, and taking responsibility for a better world.

Level Playing Field

This approach aims to provide equal opportunities for everyone, regardless of location or background.

Getting Started with 'Flat learning'

Advice for educators seeking to flatten the learning in their classrooms

Embrace technology as a tool for connection and collaboration.

Explore various online platforms and tools to facilitate communication and interaction among students across geographical boundaries.

Start small by connecting with a partner class in another country.

Begin with a simple project that allows students to get to know each other and practice collaborating online.

Seek out professional development opportunities focused on global collaborative learning.

Connect with other educators engaged in this work and learn from their experiences.

Be patient and persistent, recognizing that building a culture of global collaboration takes time and effort.

Celebrate successes along the way and be willing to adapt and learn from challenges.

Characteristics of OGCL 3.0

1

Engaged and connected educators

Using edtech tools for communication and collaboration, fostering a connected learning environment for their students.

2

Peer-to-peer learning

Supporting new collaborative digital learning modes, with students actively learning from each other.

3

Online publishing and sharing

Leveraging Web 2.0 platforms to share learning outcomes with a wider audience.

4

A participatory approach to learning

Learners actively contribute to the learning process and co-create knowledge and artifacts.

The Five Levels of OGCL

Level 1: Online Interactions

This foundational level uses asynchronous communication to share learning activities and digital artifacts online. Examples include class blogs and posting student work for global feedback.

Level 2: Real Encounters

This level focuses on synchronous communication, connecting learners with experts and peers in real-time through tools like Zoom or MS Teams for live discussions and cultural exchanges.

Level 3: Online Learning

This level encourages learning through digital interactions and artifact sharing, primarily using asynchronous communication such as online communities focused on specific curriculum objectives, and collaborative multimedia projects.

Level 4: Communities of Practice

This level involves deeper global collaborations within a community focused on specific learning objectives. It uses both synchronous and asynchronous communication. Examples include global collaborative projects with defined timelines and shared outcomes, such as the iEARN Learning Circles.

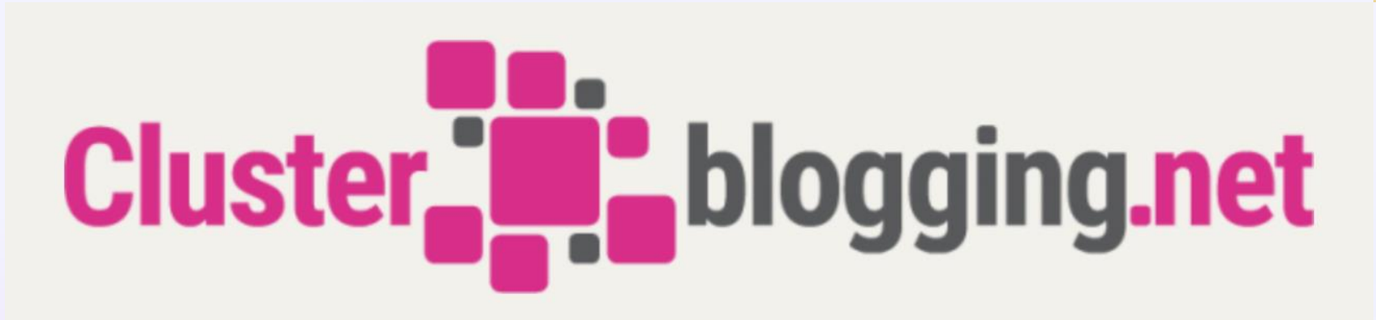
Level 5: Learning Collaboratives

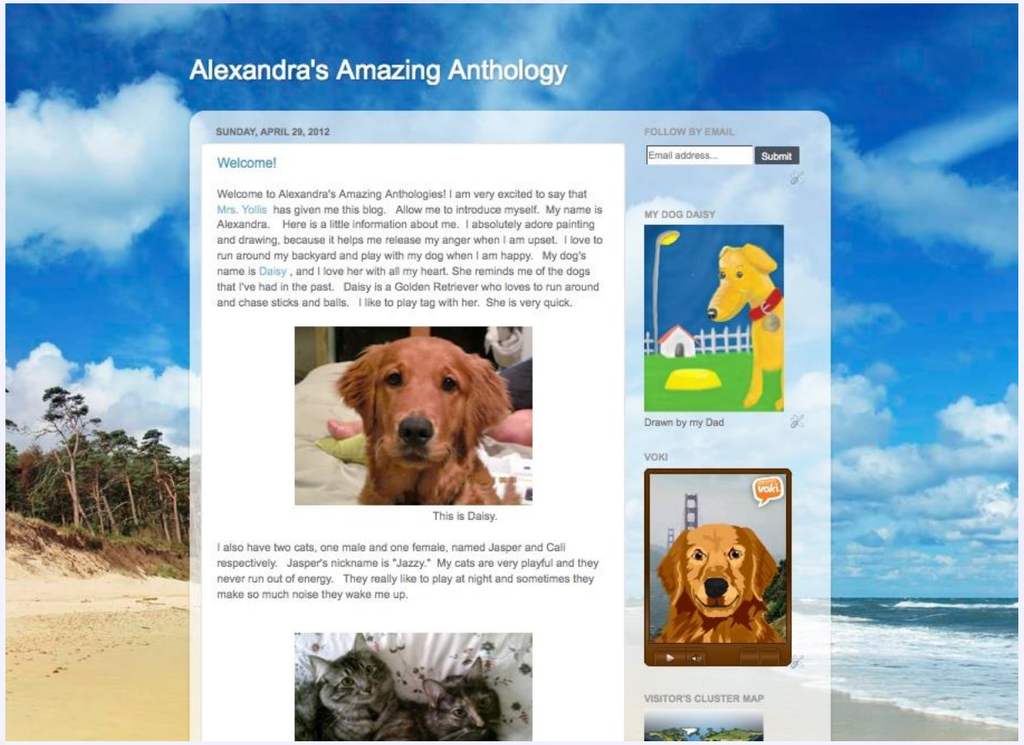
This level emphasizes learner autonomy and fosters online global collaboration as an integral part of the learning process. It leverages all communication modes. Examples include extended collaborative communities and student-driven projects empowering learners to address global challenges collaboratively.

Level 1: Online Interactions

The Traveling Teddy Bears
http://travelingteddybear.com/

Cluster Blogging
(formerly Quadblogging)
https://clusterblogging.net/





Level 2: Real Encounters

Synchronous ‘handshake’ between classrooms

Australia to China – Intercultural understanding

Level 3: Online Learning

Global Youth Debates

http://globalyouthdebates.com

Asynchronous global debates between classrooms


Singapore American School


International School of the Sacred Heart, Japan

Go Pangea (online penpals)

https://www.gopangea.org/

Cyberfair (Global SchoolNet)

http://www.globalschoolnet.org/gsncf/

GlobalSchoolNet.org
Linking Kids Around the World!

Level 4: Communities of Practice

Global Read Aloud
http://theglobalreadaloud.com/

Friends for Sustainability
https://friendsforsustain.weebly.com/
A Flat Connections Project

FLAT CONNECTIONS
CONNECT, COLLABORATE, CREATE

iEARN
https://iearn.org/
Learning Circles
https://iearn.org/collaboration-center/learning-circles

iEARN Learn with the world, not just about it.

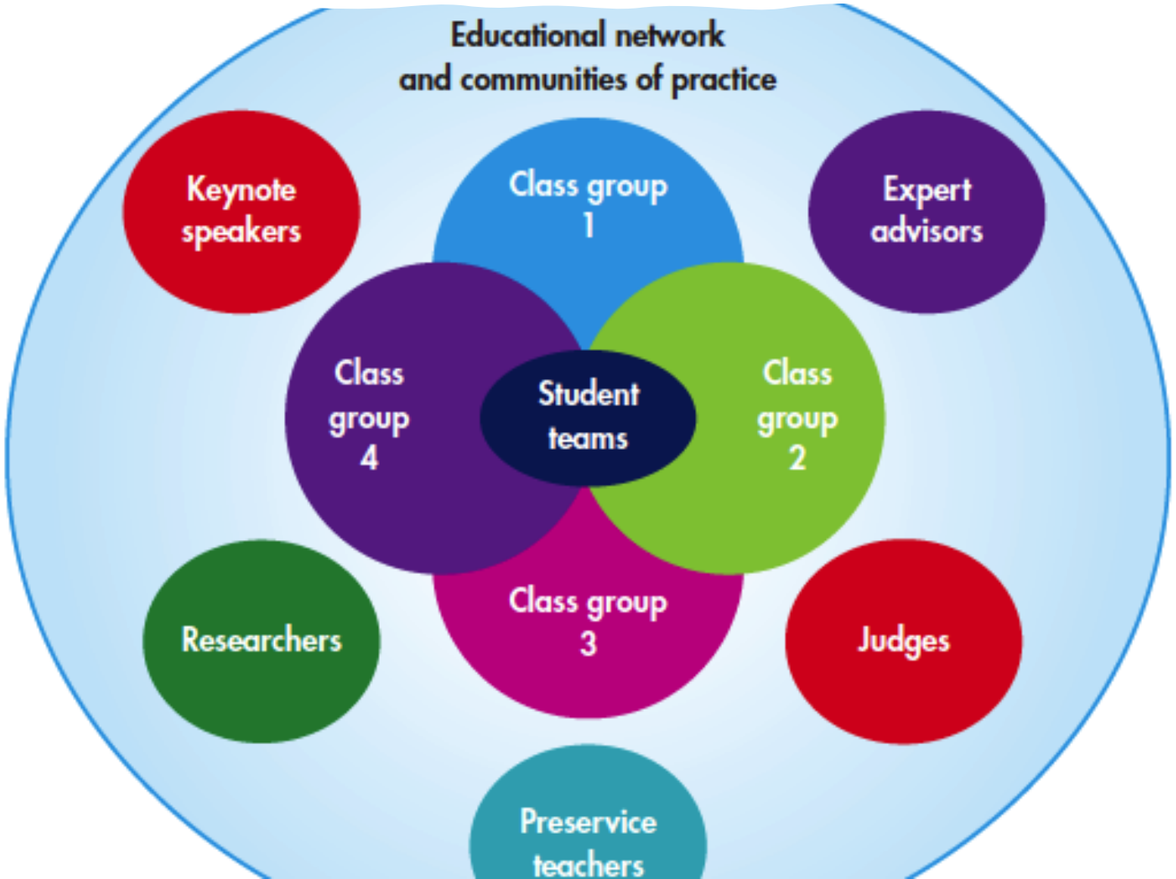
iEARN Global Learning Circles

Flat Classroom Project 2006
Casey & Cannelle – The two ‘C’s’

Level 5: Learning Collaboratives

Flat Connections Global Project

https://learningconfluence.com/flat-connections/global-projects/



Case Study 3: Flat Connections Global Project (FCGP)

Project Design

The FCGP connects high school students globally, encouraging them to explore emerging technologies and imagine the future of learning.

Project Type

FCGP embodies the characteristics of Level 5: Learning Collaboratives, featuring an extended community of learners, expert advisors, and student leadership opportunities.

Long-Term Benefits and Transformative Impact

Amy Jambor, a teacher and project manager, described the FCGP's transformative impact on her students, who realized the importance of their work and developed a sense of purpose. The positive effects continued even after the project ended. Students developed 21stC skills, showing growth in collaboration, communication, and critical thinking skills.

Case Study 3: Flat Connections Global Project

The **anywhere** classroom

LaurenB_dfhs

Female
De Forest, WI
United States

Add as Friend
Send a Message
Like
Like 0
Share Tweet G+1
Block Messages

Blog Posts (2)
Discussions (2)
Groups (3)
Photos
Photo Albums
Videos (1)

LaurenB_dfhs's Likes

+ Invite Frien

LaurenB_dfhs's Page

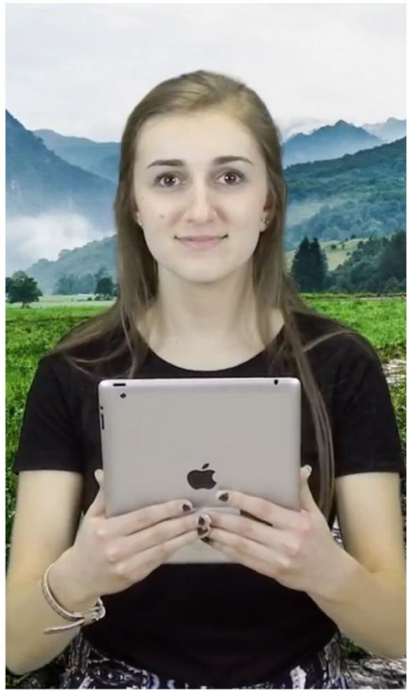
Latest Activity

LaurenB_dfhs commented on LaurenB_dfhs's video
Virtual_Handshake_360p
"Thank you, Mr. Smith. I appreciate it!"
May 16

Terry Smith commented on LaurenB_dfhs's video
Virtual_Handshake_360p
"Lauren, on your video – Well done, very clean, good flow. Technical quality was excellent; animated text ran at a good pace for understanding and matched the rhythm of the background music. The message was the best – very well explained, and a..."
May 15

LaurenB_dfhs posted a blog post
Video: BYOD - Impact on Education at All Levels
BYOD – Impact on Education at All Levels
See More
May 5
0 Comments 0 Likes

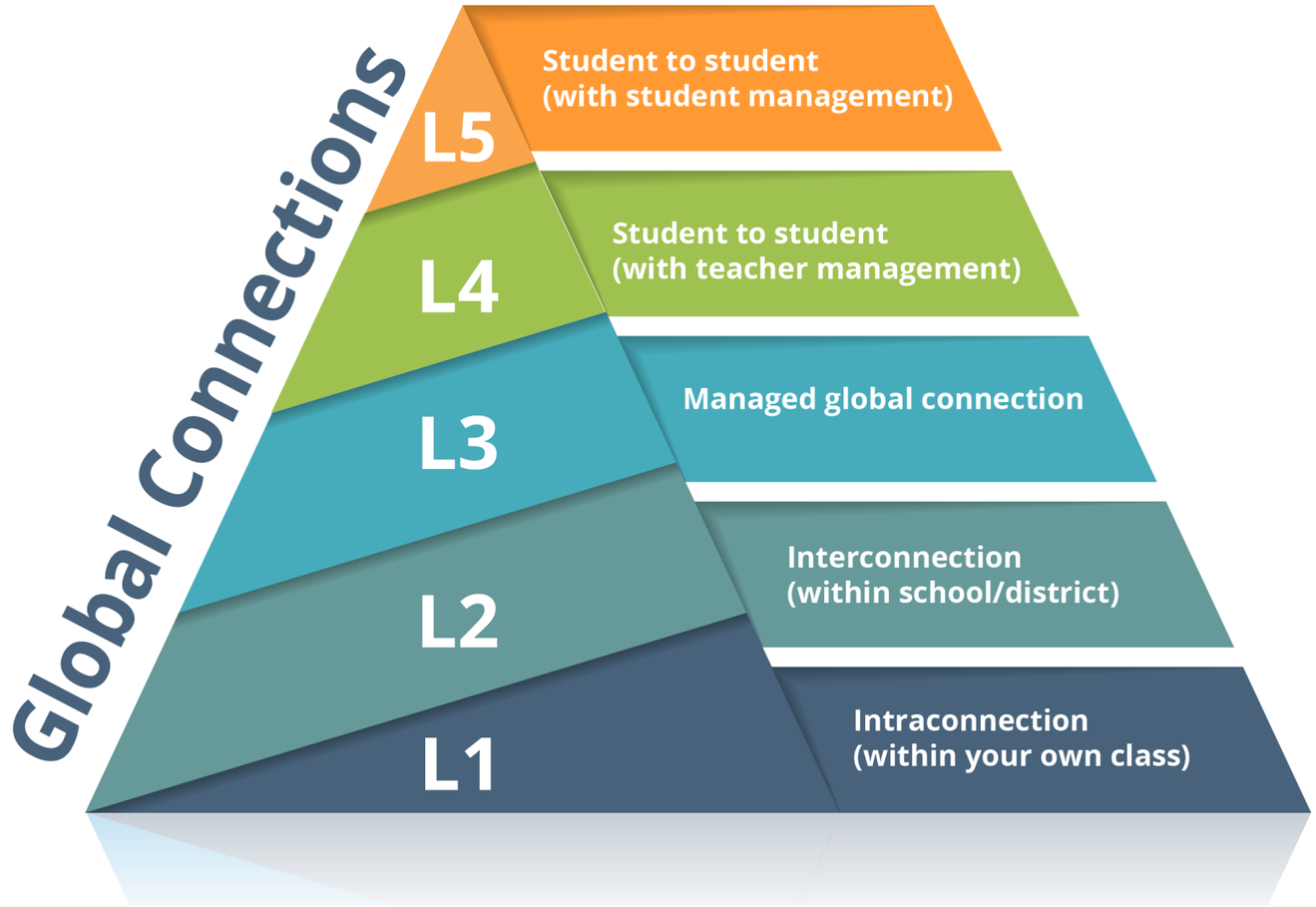
WillowU_BMHS_2 left a comment for LaurenB_dfhs
"Hello! I am uploading it today, I am so sorry I have no idea what happened, my teacher finally helped me figure everything out."
May 3



The Taxonomy of Global Connection in Education

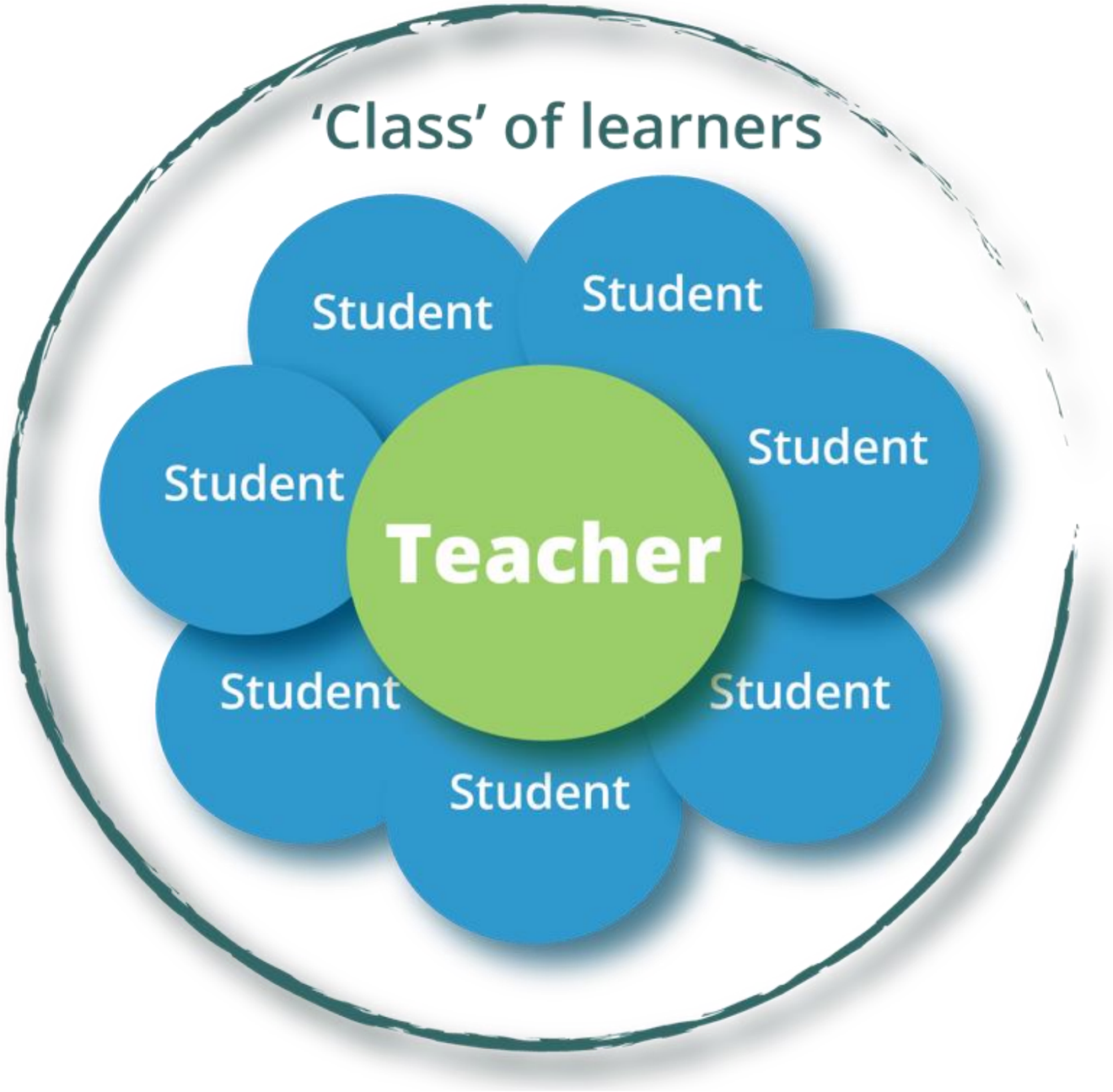
(Lindsay & Davis, 2012)

The taxonomy outlines five distinct levels of online global collaboration, each characterized by specific types of interactions, purposes, and communication modes



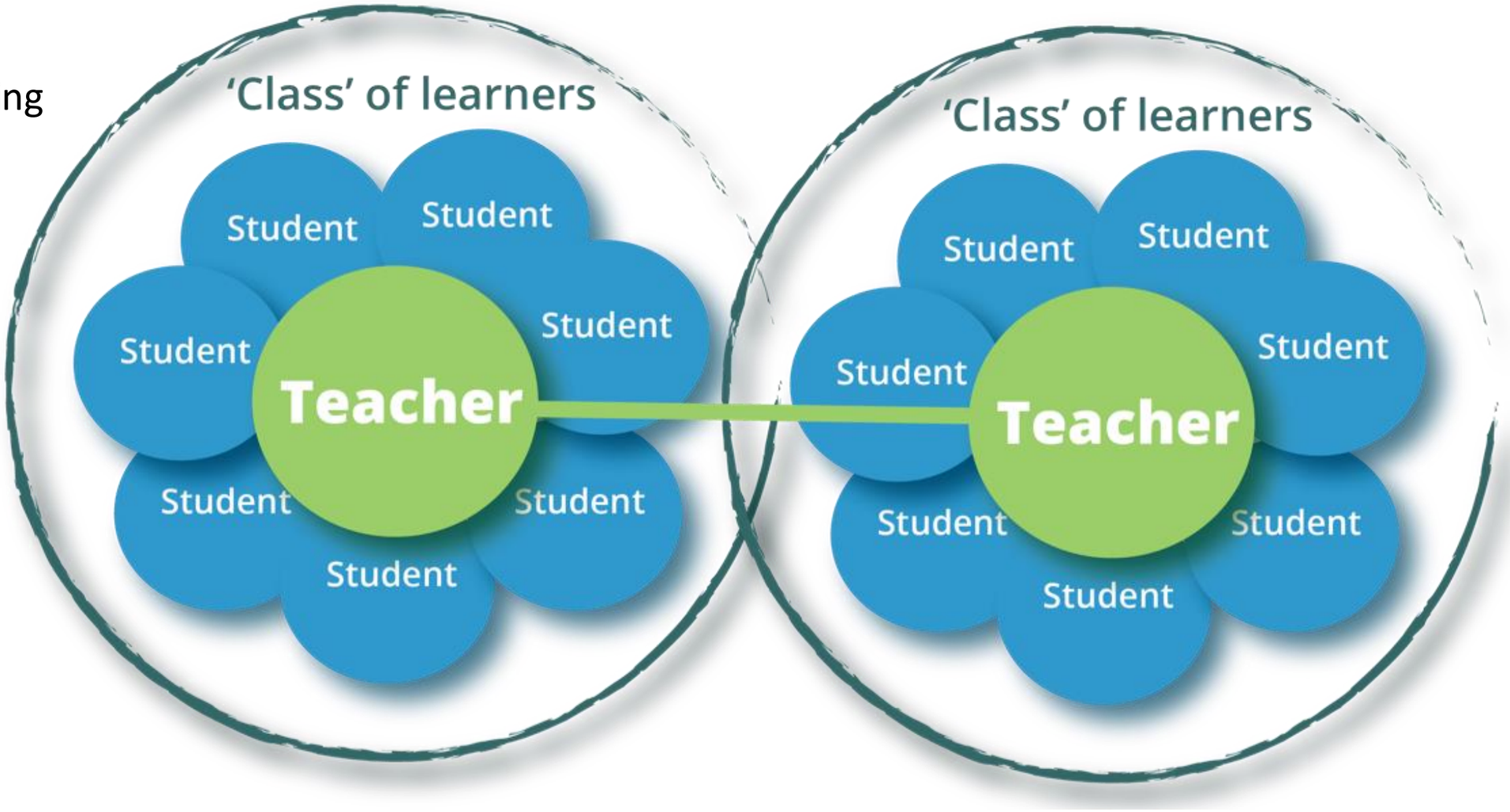
LEVEL 1: Intraconnection

Typically, one teacher and a set of students



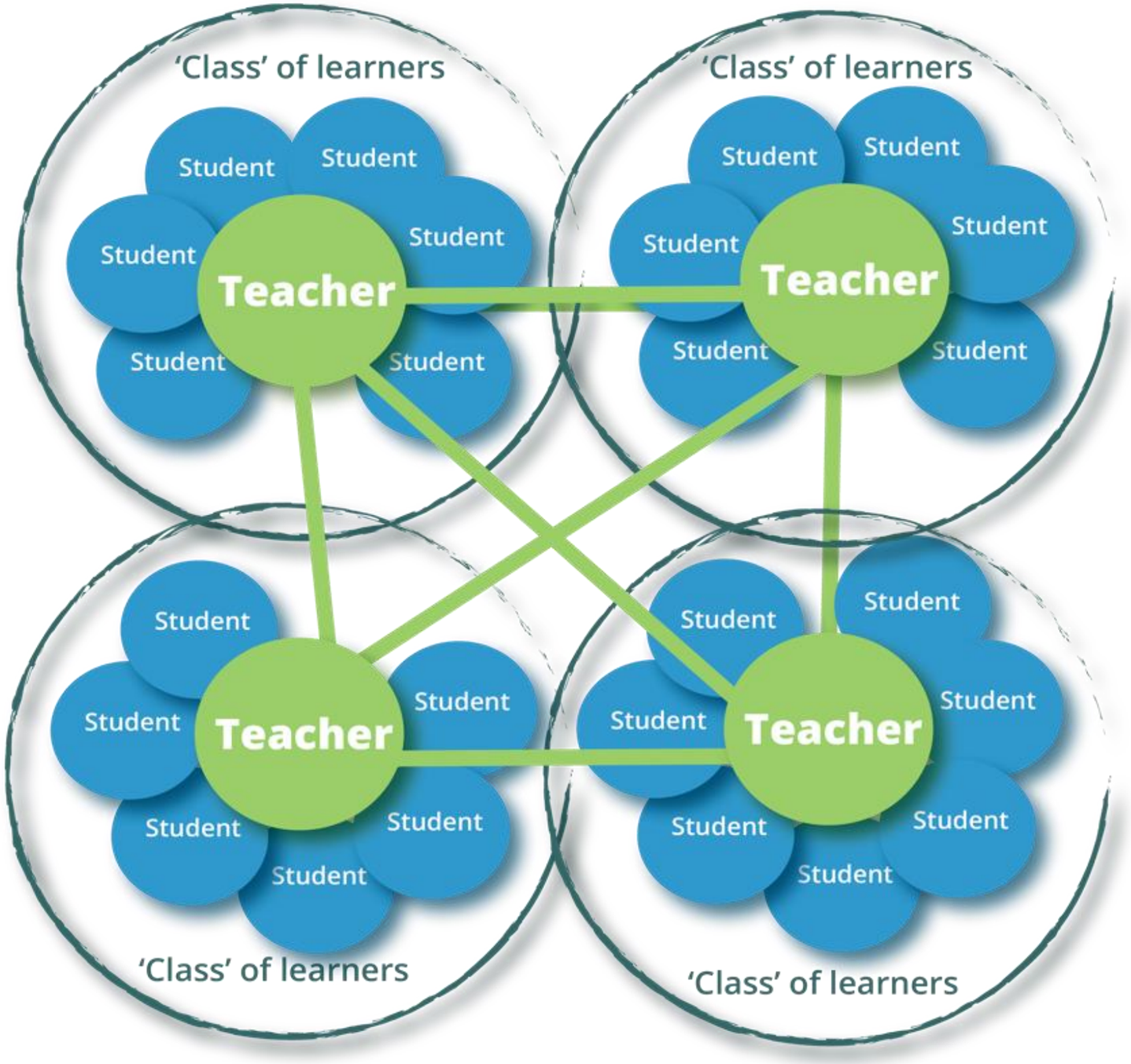
LEVEL 2: Interconnection

Two classes share for intercultural understanding and problem solving



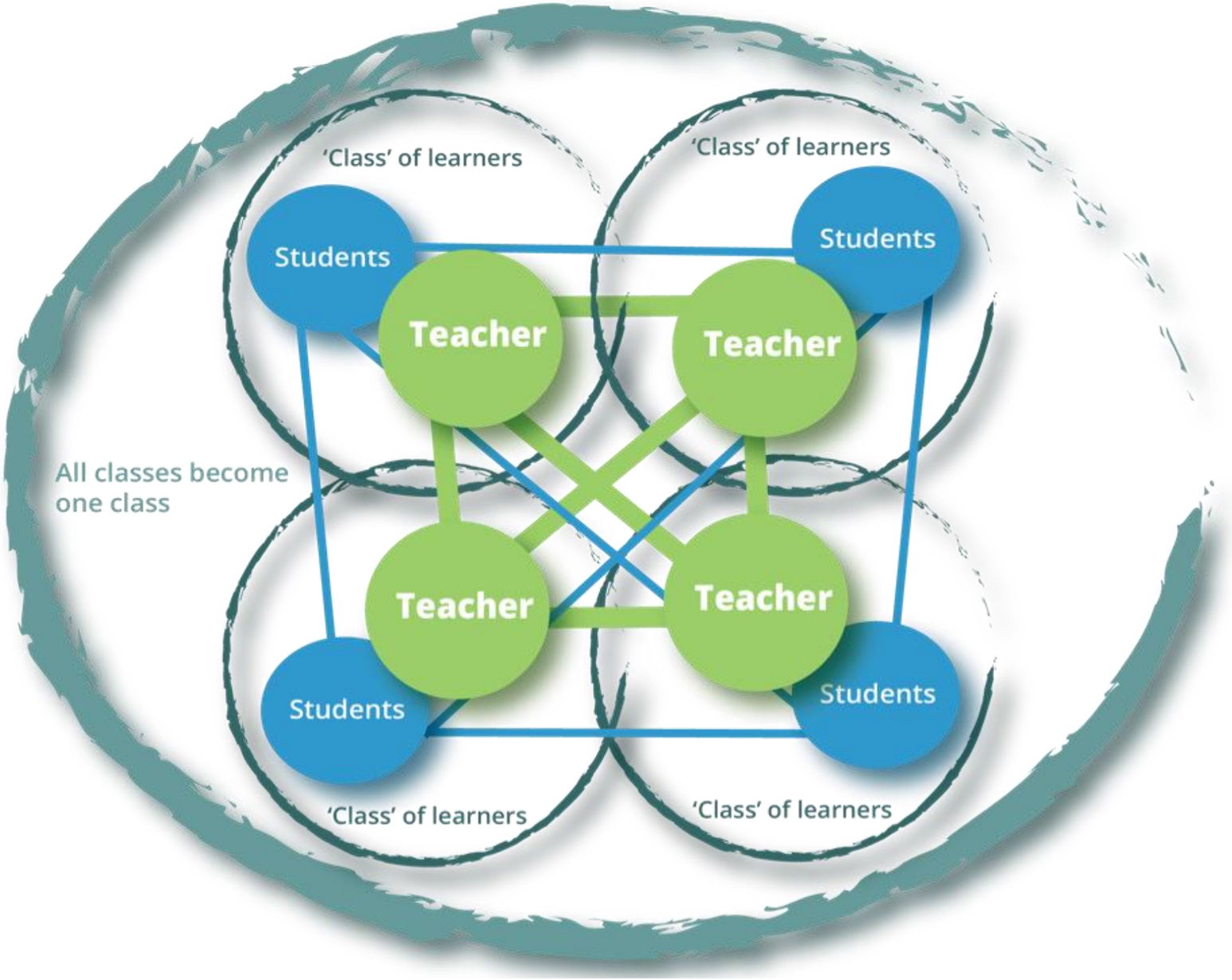
LEVEL 3: Managed Global Connection

Collaborative learning between classes designed and managed by teachers



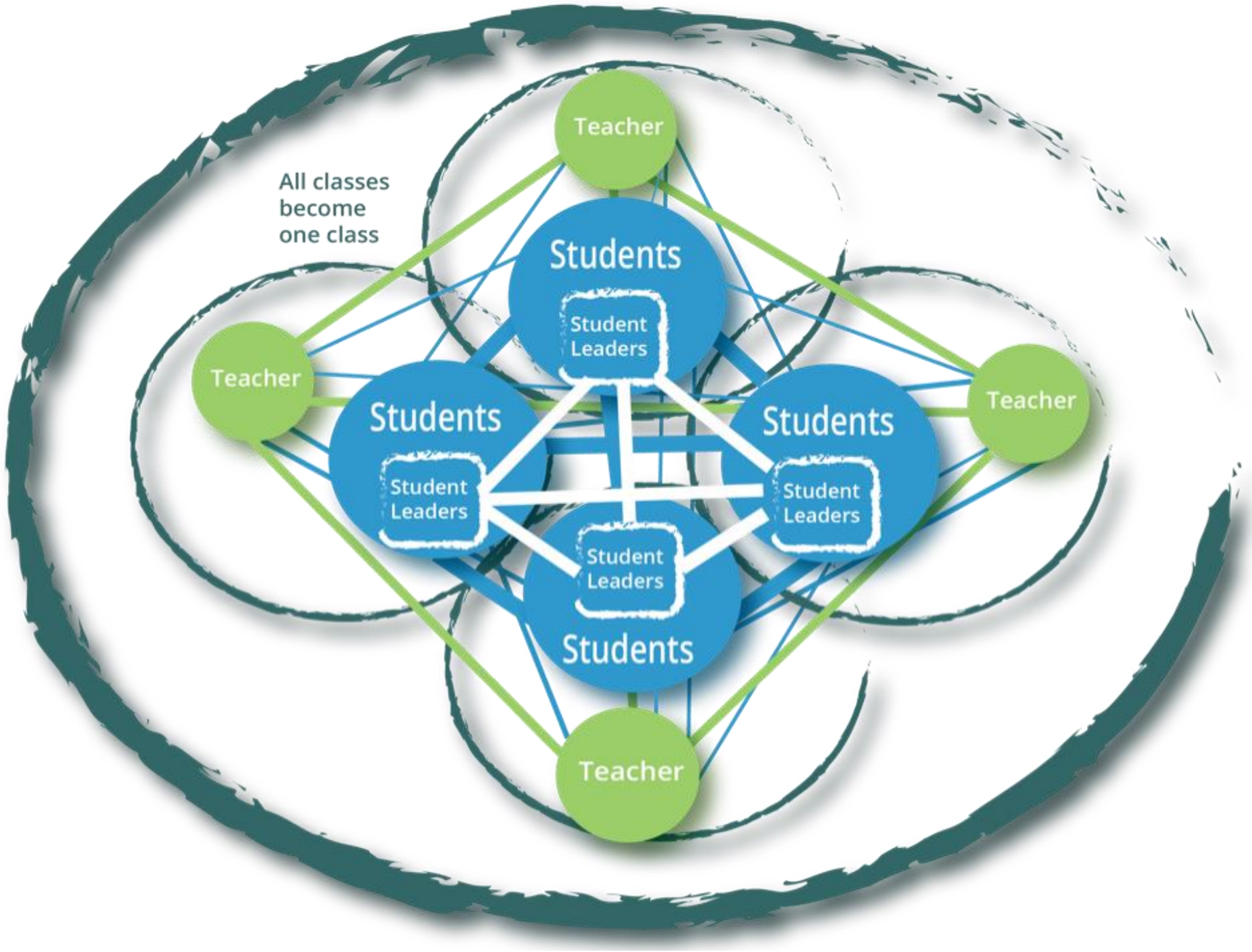
LEVEL 4:
Student to Student
(Teacher Management)

Students connect with each other and develop collaborative learning modes supported by the teacher



LEVEL 5:
Student to Student
(Student Management)

Students take on leadership roles and manage learning across classrooms and groups with teacher facilitation



Student Experiences in OGCL

Engagement:

- Increased connection to learning through interaction with diverse peers and real-world issues.

Skill Development:

- Growth in communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and global competence.

Challenges and Successes:

- Overcoming obstacles and experiencing success boosts confidence and self-efficacy.

Encouraging Student Activism

1 **Meaningful Projects**

Design to address real-world challenges.

2 **Authentic Audiences**

Share work with a global audience through suitable edtech platforms.

3 **Student Leadership**

Foster agency and ownership through leadership of projects From planning to implementation.

The Transformative Impact of EdTech and AI

Impact from within the classroom and on a broader societal level include:

EdTech as the Bridge - Breaking down geographical barriers and facilitating online global collaboration.

- Video conferencing, collaborative platforms, and learning management systems connect classrooms and students across continents. Use AI to personalize learning.

From Interaction to Collaborative Knowledge Creation - Online global collaboration is moving beyond simple interactions towards deeper engagement and co-creation of knowledge.

- Technology can facilitate authentic collaboration among students from diverse backgrounds.

Skill Development - EdTech tools can facilitate the development of critical 21st-century skills, including digital literacy, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

- Online global collaborative projects provide authentic opportunities for students to practice and refine these skills.

Reimagining Learning with Artificial Intelligence

Affordances of AI

- Personalization
- Accessibility
- Automation
- Interactivity

Challenges of AI

- Academic integrity
- Response errors
- Digital divide
- Security and Privacy

Reimagining Assessment for a Globalized World

AI should be used as a tool to enhance, rather than replace, human instruction. Banning AI does not work.

Moving Beyond Traditional Assessment

Shifting focus from individual performance to authentic, collaborative approaches that meet global needs.

EdTech for Collaborative Assessment

Leveraging EdTech to facilitate collaborative assessment through platforms for peer feedback, shared rubrics, and project development.

AI for Personalized and Authentic Assessment

AI personalizes assessment through adaptive tests and provides feedback beyond simple right or wrong, fostering authentic learning.

Key Considerations for AI Integration

Ethical Use and Bias

Ensure responsible AI practices.

Teacher Training

Support effective AI integration.

Human-Centered

Emphasize human interaction.

Transforming the Role of the Educator

From Gatekeeper to Facilitator

The sources describe how EdTech and AI are transforming the role of the educator from a traditional knowledge gatekeeper to a facilitator of learning who guides students in their exploration and co-creation of knowledge.

EdTech for Professional Development

EdTech can provide educators with access to professional development opportunities that enhance their understanding of global learning, online collaboration, and effective integration of technology.

AI as a Coaching Partner

AI can support educators by providing data-driven insights into student learning, suggesting personalized learning pathways, and automating administrative tasks, freeing up time for educators to focus on facilitating student learning and fostering global connections.

Conclusion

Learning is becoming more global and interconnected. Embracing online connections and new technologies can help students become successful global citizens.

OGCL and EdTech can provide students with the skills needed to succeed in a globalized world.

Call to Action:

Let's work together to create a future-ready learning environment.

Our goal should be to provide every student with the opportunity to connect, collaborate, and learn on a global scale.

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