

These practical strategies can help you create a classroom environment where students use mobile devices appropriately and effectively.

**1. Avoid downtime.**

"Idle hands are the devil's playground." When learning is not demanding or when students have no clear activities to complete, they look for less constructive ways to occupy their time. This can include inappropriate use of technology, as well as other negative activities. Giving students back-up activities to work on in their free time, such as supplemental reading or learning new software, can keep students busy and out of trouble.

**2. Establish routines.**

In a mobile learning environment, routines can enhance student learning and productivity. Developing routines with student input for the following activities is an important part of any classroom management strategy:

- Starting and ending class or activities with devices
- Disabling distracting features like alerts and messages
- Storing devices when not in use
- Troubleshooting technical issues
- Reporting inappropriate online material

**3. Keep moving.**

One of the benefits of a student-centered classroom facilitated by mobile learning is the changing role of the teacher. Instead of standing in front of a classroom during instructional time, teachers in a mobile learning environment spend a great deal of their teaching time walking around the classroom, interacting with students, and observing their activities. This kind of close supervision has a positive effect on students' on-task behavior.

**4. Assess often.**

Formative assessment not only improves student learning, but it also improves student engagement. In a personalized, mobile environment, students set goals and monitor progress toward their goals both in and out of the classroom. Teachers also assess skills, such as self-management, with apps that support assessment strategies including observation, polling, and checklists. Feedback and self-reflection keep students focused on learning and the progress they are making.

**5. Time activities.**

As all technology users know, it's easy to wander off to interesting Internet side trips, and big blocks of time can evaporate as students (and teachers) follow chains of links and superficially scan content. Separating complex projects into workable pieces with due dates is an important self-management skill that applies both inside and outside the classroom. During class time, a visible timer can emphasize effective use of time.

**6. Arrange the classroom.**

The degree of flexibility that teachers have with room arrangement varies widely. If you do have the option of moving furniture around, different room arrangements can help with different activities, such as exams or group work. The placement of student desks or tables can also facilitate teacher observation and interaction.

**7. Stay alert.**

Observant teachers soon learn what kinds of behaviors may indicate unproductive activities. For example, if students stare at screens for an unusual length of time, if they seem to be typing very quickly, or if their eyes are focused in their laps, they may be engaging in off-task behavior.

## Additional Resources

### Classroom Management Resources

<https://sites.google.com/a/apps.edina.k12.mn.us/bridge-to-byod-professional-development/integration-management-resources>\*

*A nice list of resources and tips for managing a BYOD classroom.*

### BYOD Resources: Making It Happen

[www.assortedstuff.com/stuff/?p=684](http://www.assortedstuff.com/stuff/?p=684)\*

*A collection of management strategies, as well as activities that incorporate mobile devices.*

### Mobile Learning Issues and Discussion

<http://teach.oetc.org/question/what-are-some-classroom-management-strategies-mobile-devices-you-use>\*

*A collection of teacher postings about ways they manage mobile devices in the classroom.*