An Online Teaching Exploration of “Keeping on Studying while Schools are Closed” in Primary and Middle Schools

Lu ZHAO¹ and Yan-qing GUO²

¹School of Music, Shaanxi Normal University, Xi’an 710062, China
²School of Ethnic Education, Shaanxi Normal University, Xi’an 710062, China

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Abstract. At the background of "Internet +", the online education of primary and middle schools is undergoing profound changes. At the same time, classes are always suspended because of the special cases such as haze, pandemic, earthquake, and storm. It forced online education become the mainstream undoubtedly. The education department and schools need to establish complete coping mechanisms. Teachers, parents and students should prepare in advance. If the suspension of classes happens, they can efficiently use modern educational technology to realize "Keeping on studying while schools are closed." On the basis of summarizing the teaching experience of "Keeping on studying while schools are closed", this paper attempts to adopt a teaching mode: learning new lessons by online teaching, providing resources by teaching platforms, communicating by QQ, Wechat and E-mail at any time, reviewing by micro-class. This teaching mode provides students a "all-round", "all-process" service of online learning and make the "Keeping on Studying while Schools are Closed" in primary and middle schools better.

The Source of the Problem

In recent years, natural disaster and epidemic occur frequently, which always leads to the suspension of classes in a wide range. For example, in 2003, most schools in our country had to be closed temporarily due to severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). In some areas of the Sichuan basin, students always fail to go to school normally in autumn because rain fell day after day without ceasing. In winter, most provinces suffer severe haze which often makes trouble for students’ study in school. It forced online education become the mainstream undoubtedly. With the rapid development of the Internet, online education has developed rapidly. Various new online teaching modes such as MOOC, micro-class, ZOOM video conference and flip class are emerging. Large numbers of on-line educational platform, network teaching platform, on-line video projects have been developed and made best use of, that makes great changes on people's measures and methods of getting information and ways of life, communication and study[1]. In the field of education and teaching, the sharing of teaching resources, the opening of teaching forms, the individualization of teaching methods, and the virtualization of teaching environment all provide the possibility for "Keeping on studying while schools are closed" in primary and middle schools so that the education will gradually become mobile and immediate.

"Keeping on studying while schools are closed" mainly refers to primary and secondary students can study normally according to a certain plan although they can not go to school[2]. Facing the sudden suspension of classes under the influence of special circumstances, the education sector and schools should establish a long-term, standardized and specialized mechanism so as to rationally arrange their teaching assignment. Primary and middle school teachers need to adjust their own teaching methods and keep in touch with parents and students by internet and other means, also need to complete online teaching tasks and guide students make full use of online platforms and digital resources to study independently. Only in this way, can we minimize the losses caused by the suspension of classes.

In order to achieve the goal of "Keeping on learning" during the suspension period, many schools
adopt various online teaching methods such as live broadcasting courses, video conferencing, WeChat teaching, MOOC and micro-class. However, due to many factors such as the separation of teachers and students from teaching scenarios, students and parents are unfamiliar with the platform and software. So there are lack of effective communication and supervision between teachers and students. Students are influenced by the network learning attitude of "entertaining" and "exclusion." Online courses are lack of attractiveness. So far, the completion rate of the course during the suspension period is still relatively low, the quality of online learning is still not high. On the basis of summarizing past online teaching experience, this paper proposes a more scientific and practical online teaching method.

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According to the previous online teaching experience and the limitations of the single online platform, in this article, we will try to combine a variety of online teaching platforms and teaching methods with each other in order to achieve high efficient, controllable and orderly online teaching.

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The online teaching model (shown in figure 1) combines live streaming, web-based teaching platform, WeChat, QQ, email and micro-class, it requires teachers to teach online, record micro-class video and solve students’ problems through social software. Meanwhile, Head teacher and teachers of every subject should guide and urge students to learn by QQ and Wechat group. The operations of these platforms are relatively simple and complementary. It can avoid the situation that students fail to study effectively just because they are unfamiliar with the operation of online teaching platform. There are many advantages of Micro-class, which contribute to fully realize three-dimensional, muti-dimensions teaching and immersion teaching, also provide students with "all-round", "all-process" online teaching and learning services.

Figure 1. The online teaching exploration of “keeping on studying while schools are closed”.

Live Online Live Teaching - New Lesson Learning. Teaching live broadcast refers to the behavior of live broadcast on the Internet platform. Many education institutions, such as NetEase cloud classroom, New Oriental, learning and thinking, learn tyrants, with whom to learn, all compete to launch online teaching platform. There are many advantages of online teaching, for example, it can be replayed after the course is over. Firstly, online teaching is close to the traditional classroom. It performs interactive and scenarized. Teachers and students can be carried by barrage and other means. It will not only help ease the loneliness of students’ learning, but also arouse students' enthusiasm for
learning. Secondly, teachers are more responsible in the living broadcast. During the online teaching, students can give feedback to teachers in time. Teachers can quickly understand the students’ ideas and adjust the teaching plans according to the students’ feedback. When facing camera, teacher will be more pressure, stressful and serious, it will be benefit to improve the quality of teaching. Thirdly, online teaching will have some binding effect on students, which can effectively prevent students from study carelessly. Therefore, students’ participation and course completion will suppose to be satisfied.

As Su Peiran, a middle school teacher from middle school attached to Renmin University of China, pointed out, primary and middle school students enjoy online teaching because it often successfully arouse their enthusiasm for learning. Yang Gaixue professors have also suggested there are many reasons that online teaching is more popular among students. Firstly, According to a survey, students usually have a sense of dependence on traditional class that they can communicate with teacher face to face online teaching also can effectively meet the emotional dependence of students. Secondly, some subjects need plenty of communications between students and students, students and teachers, such as language and politics. Online teaching also can realize this goal as traditional class. Students can see teacher through the screen and speak with teachers directly.

**Online Teaching Platform to Provide Resources - Resources and Testing.** The online teaching platform relies on the curriculum resources that have been constructed and focuses on the teaching activities of teachers and students, and takes the subject module as the main line. It is a teaching system that integrates teachers’ preparation, teaching process, feedback and evaluation. Teaching interactive and evaluation platform composed of three modules. The teaching resource platform takes the subject module as the main line, and has a learning area, a communication area, an examination area and a management area for each course. Teachers can conveniently publish, manage and organize teaching contents, and upload resources including teaching content and examples, related videos, teaching courseware, lesson plans and study cases, exercises and so on by online teaching platform. Teaching interactive platform is mainly used for teachers and students to communicate, to provide students with online Q & A, notice and other columns. Teaching evaluation platform’s function is supplying formative and comprehensive evaluation by providing students password-protected, time-limited test which can check the learning effect of students. Teaching evaluation platform also includes the evaluation of teachers, teachers can get evaluation by students, it will be good for teachers to enhance their teaching quality.

It should be noted that, the online teaching platform had better not to include too many functions. On the contrast, it is necessary for schools to show their educational characters fully by designing functions on the online teaching platform. These functions need to be targeted and innovative, so schools should not only integrate the latest learning and teaching theory, the latest technology and the best practice, but also to focus on teaching resources and updates the content timely, also pay attention to the actual needs of users. Only in this way, can the online platform be better.

**Social Platform to Communicate at Any Time - QQ, WeChat, email.** Although the above-mentioned online teaching platform has online communication links, most students are more enjoy using QQ, WeChat to communicate and mailbox to deliver homework. People are able to make instant phone calls, and communicate with each other easily by QQ and Wechat. However, there are also many drawbacks. For example, it is difficult to enter some mathematical symbols by QQ and text interpretation but easily makes each other feel ambiguous. About Wechat, chat records can not be effectively saved on Wechat, and students can be taken to a variety of groups and get many unnecessary messages. If the advantages of QQ and Wechat can be combined, it will be benefit students’ study greatly. Such as chat records can be found on QQ. However, Wechat does not have this function. In general, there are many problems for students on online teaching, but teachers may ignore some students’ problems because of too many problems on the screen. Therefore, students are advised to record their problems in time, and send them to teachers privately by WeChat or QQ after class. If some students do not like using QQ or Wechat, they can send e-mail to teachers. Teachers can analyze these problems for students one by one, or reply it on Wechat group when many students in class
failed to solve the same problem. The benefit of it is that the online teaching can not be easily interrupted by personal problems, and students’ problems are not easily ignored by teachers. In addition, teachers can also use the WeChat group, QQ group, email to pass information to students and check students’ homework assignments. Students also can submit homework by these ways.

Micro-class to Help Students Review - Gain New Insights Through Reviewing Old Material. As an important part of online learning resources, micro-class has been used in open online courses and will play an increasingly important role in the teaching of class. The definition of micro-class given by Professor Lijiahou from Shanghai Normal University is: "Micro-class refers to a lesson that has a definite teaching goal and content in a short period of 10 minutes and focuses on a specific point." [4] This creative form of learning is very popular among mobile learners, because these characteristics that micro-class has are very good for students’ review. Therefore, this article advocates schools to use micro-class for helping students review knowledge, so that students can watch the micro-video while recall and consolidate the knowledge of the last lesson to achieve the best review results.

The Teaching Process of the Online Teaching Exploration of “Keeping on Studying while Schools are Closed”

This paper attempts to adopt a teaching mode: learning new lessons by online teaching, providing resources by teaching platforms, communicating by QQ, Wechat and E-mail at any time, reviewing by micro-class. This teaching mode provides students an "all-round", "all-process" service of online learning. The teaching process of online teaching exploration was shown in Figure 2.

![Figure 2. The teaching process of the online teaching exploration of “keeping on studying while schools are closed”](image)

Preparation before Class. Before the implementation of teaching, teachers need to carefully consider the teaching details and plan the teaching process in advance, determine the teaching time and promptly inform the students, and provide the course password. Under normal circumstances, one day in advance to inform students of class time, so as not to miss the live broadcast time students can not understand the fun involved. After receiving the notification, students need to log on to the online teaching platform to download teaching handouts and related materials to ensure that they can check out handouts and reference materials at any time during lectures. In addition, students need to check
the questions asked by the teacher and try to answer the questions by taking the time to enter the live course with questions. During this period, if you encounter any problems, or want to make suggestions to the teacher, you can send messages through the QQ, WeChat, or to teachers.

Live Teaching. Five minutes before the live broadcast, students reply to the teacher through the barrage whether they are waiting for the live broadcast. After the teacher confirms that the students are complete, they start to teach the live broadcast. Teachers should follow a course of difficult choice of teaching methods, you can use the question inquiry teaching, you can also teach directly according to the handout. During the broadcast, teachers should grasp the teaching progress, not too fast and not too slow, it is best to complete the teaching task according to the original plan. At the same time, teachers should also teach the use of student learning methods. The student is responsible for listening to the class seriously, taking notes in class, having the idea or wanting to express oneself understand, can express the speech at any time, send to the broadcast interface through the barrage, can also record the problem, ask questions to the teacher after class.

Network Teaching Platform to Complete the Test. After the online teaching ends, if students have problems, they can ask teachers for help through QQ, WeChat or mailbox, the teacher promptly carries on the solution and the reply. Students without any problems should log in to the online teaching platform to conduct active inquiry, complete the compliance test, complete the homework arranged by teachers on the platform and upload the learning experience, and also can learn to expand knowledge through inter-school course links. Teachers in this session to track the progress of student learning, supervision of students to complete their homework, by correcting homework to test the learning effects of students, and view the students learning experience and reflection and other aspects of the information.

Micro-class Review, Complete the Evaluation. Teachers summarize the key point as well as difficult point of lesson, and then make it as a micro-class within 10 minutes and upload it on the online teaching platform. Students need to watch video and complete the part of evaluation according to teachers’ guide. (Including teachers’ evaluation and students’ self-evaluation). Teachers should estimate students in a comprehensive way according to their performance. Students review the course by micro-class video and complete the part of evaluation of learning and teachers’ teaching. In the end, they should submit the results of evaluation to teachers in time.

Conclusion

There are many factors that cause students to fail to go to school regularly. No one can guarantee that the suspension of classes which due to haze and other special circumstances will not happen again. Facing the special circumstances of "Keeping on studying while schools are closed" in primary and middle schools, this paper attempts to adopt a teaching mode: learning new lessons by online teaching, providing resources by teaching platforms, communicating by QQ, Wechat and E-mail at any time, reviewing by micro-class. This teaching mode can minimize the impact of suspensions on the teaching process of primary and middle schools and make the "Keeping on Studying while Schools are Closed" in primary and middle schools better. Modern educational technology develops rapidly in recent years. However, online education still needs to be constantly explored. Only in this way, we can make new breakthroughs as well as significant progress in this field. Let us join hands to work hard on online education. Hopefully, online education can help us to cope with the special situation above successfully in the future.

References

