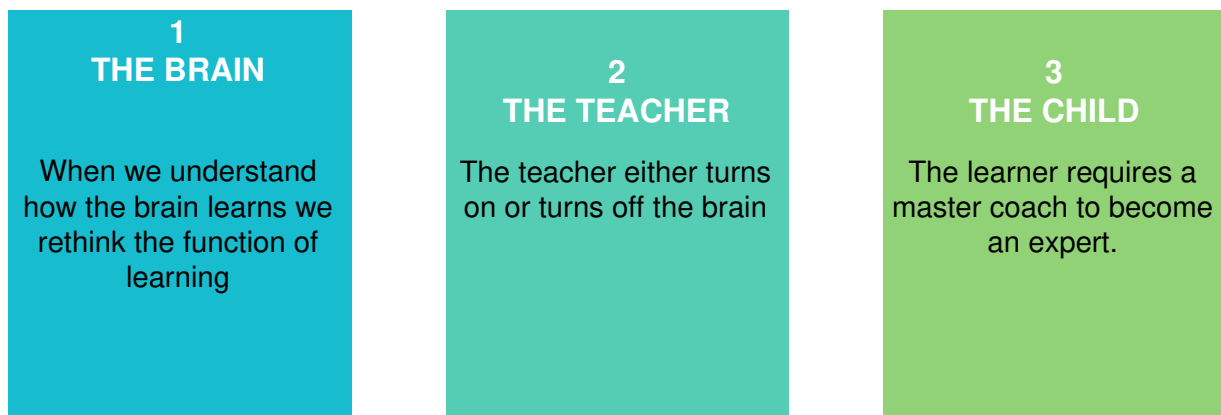


21st Century Academic

Personal Performance Tasks in a Brain-Based school

A simple initiative like instituting a Personal Performance Task programme will revolutionise the Work-at-Home story.

Innovative schools like SVPS needed to step up and rethink the function of schooling and it's congruency with family-life and family-time. It has to be compatible. Some things will never change:



FUTURE LEARNING INITIATIVE

ReTHINK the FUNction of schooling

Schools who are committed to quality teaching and learning are committing time to rethinking the function of education. Future Learning schools have the added benefit of a neuroscience base. Today, we know how the brain learns. We know that the brain is designed to forget anything that is not essential for the body's survival. Retaining endless lists, names, theorems, algebraic equations, concepts, attitudes and values is not a natural practice. It takes intensive effort by the educator to create the right environment for a healthy partnership between learner - educator - parent. Thus, engaging all stakeholders in order to maximise the best experience.

We now know that the ability to be successful is no longer based on IQ, EQ or even talent. Giftedness is a fallacy. Angela Duckworth (PhD) and Prof Carol Dweck of Stanford University are now proving that success is rather linked to passion, perseverance and the ability to stick to long term goals. They call it GRIT!

No longer does practice make perfect. In fact, practise makes permanent. Unless you practise in the presence of a master coach, you are wasting your time. The master coach is in the classroom. The master coach is the qualified educator - not necessarily qualified in the content base - knowledge changes too quickly to add any value to a specific degree of knowledge mastery, but rather, qualified in the ability to teach and coach.

LEARNING TAKES AGES

A ATTENTION. The brain can only focus for a limited time. Rule: Focus in minutes for your age (ie 10 yr olds - 10 minutes).

- G Generation. Educators need to generate thoughts by posing essential questions, raising challenges and getting students to think out of the box.
- E Emotions. Unless the learner feels that the educator likes him/her, and the state (climate) of the class is conducive to learning - he/she will not learn.
- S Spacing. Learning must be repetitive. Repetition is the best teacher.

Anxiety levels are high and parents have felt the pressure to assist with Work-at-Home in the evening. With the correct approach, Work-at-Home and PPTs, are meant to create the space for personal development and to drive SMART goal-settings; hence making a correct choice will point success in the right direct. Every grade (Grade 1 - 7) sets about determining SMART goals that helps them realise their own potential and set their own pathway to learning. Our Diary system (4 diaries per year; one each term) allows for them to visit and revisit these goals.

The value of the PPT:

Time management in the class is vital to the backbone of SVPS's curriculum design; it's embedded into the skills, concepts, attitude and values of the Understanding by Design Curriculum. Our curriculum is interactive and remains unique in developing a holistic thinker and learner. This curriculum answers to Essential Questions which are relevance to learning and therefore relevant to Life.

Master coaches are experts at classroom management. Work is assigned to learners with time, capability and learning in mind; after solid input has been completed. Boundaries are clearly set and reflective and restorative practices are in place the moment a boundary is crossed. Time on task is a non-negotiable because content is clearly planned and students know the expectations. There is no hidden expectation; it's clear, valid and relevant.

Therefore, work that could not have been completed in the class due to the educator's inability to complete it in the class is not sent home. Should a learner not have had sufficient time to complete an activity in the class, he/she would be allowed to complete it in the class at another opportunity in the class at school. However, a learner could be encouraged to consider it as a PPT that could be completed at home. A PPT includes an extra-lesson, task or assignment; but by a learner's personal choice to develop or by the professional judgement of the educator who would by mutual agreement assign the activity. These tasks are mutually beneficial to determine mastery and understanding to direct diagnostic learning opportunities.

Learners finish all tasks required for assessment, recording and reporting purposes in the class; this applies to oral, model-making, iMovies, keynote presentation, posters and any assignment.

By the time a Study Guide and an Assessment Time Table is sent home, there would be a foundational understanding of the learner's individual learning style with an effective studying skills set.

The Healthy Mind Platter

The healthy mind platter designed by neuroscientist David Rock (PhD) and medical doctor Daniel Siegel clearly indicates that our day must include the super seven slices: sleep time, exercise time, focus time (school), connection time (being with friends and family), down time (doing nothing), in time (meditation/prayer/etc.) and play time.

We encourage our learners to sleep for 9 hours a day and attend school for a further seven, 16 hours are already used up. To spread the remaining 8 hours over five slices leaves no time for unstructured learning opportunities. The brain needs more than sport. It needs PLAY. Structured play is essential for creativity and innovation. An average good school day should include structured play, exercise, connection and focus times with a healthy combination of both down time and in time. This is a typical school day at SVPS. It leaves the fulcrum balancing act looking at the

adults involved in the learner's life with a purposeful plan to enhance each day with meaningful pleasure and learning to move in the right direction.

The Master Coach

A school delivers the curriculum under the supervision of a master coach. Master coaches assess performance in the class. At the end of the school day, learners must play their sport, rest, chill with friends, surf a few waves - spend time with family over a meal and end up in bed reading a good book. Neuroscientists are teaching us how important it is for children to play throughout their lives. The Sport field is covered, corner to corner, every afternoon with learners who are playing sports and they are going home fit, passionate about learning and determined to achieve their personal goals with perseverance.

There are a few fundamental cornerstones upholding good classroom practice and a learning environment at SVPS:

- 1) Goal-setting
- 2) Mandatory Reading
- 3) CARE
- 4) Mindfulness
- 5) Emotional Intelligence
- 6) Reflection and Restoration Discipline
- 7) Parentline
- 8) Effective Sports Programme
- 9) Functional Inclusive Team and intervention Programme

At Sun Valley, we are committed to PPTs and Reading. Committing to 20 minutes of reading his/her favourite novel or graphic novel is key.

Parents, teachers and school leaders have concluded that Homework has become a problem. The high levels of stress, anxiety and pressure facing your children has become a national issue.

No Homework Policy sends the wrong message, but PPTs with its correct Balance does

Educators work with parents on stress-free ways to keep learning going.

Future can be different

- Leaders should imagine how the future can be different, but not for the sake of being different, but for the sake of being better, have more impact, be more efficient, deliver better results and be relevant. (Rain Fedas)
- Key should be **reading, writing** and performing **arithmetic** as part of family interaction.
- Reading from Grade 1-2 and PPT's should be introduced mainly from Grade 3-7 to assist with time management and accountability for as little as 10-15min
- Learners should be taught the skills to manage the work which must have **PURPOSE** and is connected to helping learners achieve the highest academic standards
- We want learners to spend the afternoon playing sport, exploring and recharging for the next day.

Expectations

- It is expected that parents will support their child's learning through nightly reading, reviewing Maths skills (if possible), practising spelling words etc.
- Teachers will always be happy to provide ideas and resources for continuing learning at home if needed.

- Lower grades must read and go through spelling words to allow parents to partner with your child's education
- Rigorous academic standards are fostered in the classroom

The PPT Diary

The diary is a tool to encourage journaling - a skill used by most successful individuals. The legendary Toby Fulwiler, author of [The Journal Book](#), writes, "Without an understanding of who we are, we are not likely to understand fully why we study biology rather than forestry, literature rather than philosophy. In the end, all knowledge is related; the journal helps clarify the relationship." He also says that journal writing supports the development of learner thinking. A two sentence journal is not intended to frustrate a child, but to guide a child by his/her own words.

Journaling supports the fact that children could be given an opportunity each week to revisit certain of the aforementioned cornerstones. With good guidance, a teacher is able to provide an opportunity for each child to journal 'Challenges' and 'Achievements'. Hopefully, via honesty, children will write about this so effectively that parents are able to read about their child's progress and potential limiters. By doing this, they are constantly combining goal-setting and emotions in **written** form. It provides evidence to a parent with their child's emotional intelligence.

Herewith, a child journals about **all** aspects of their school-life - reflected in point form.

Learners are encouraged to take their books home so that parents are able to acknowledge their child's successes. Apart from reminders, the diary is a liaison between school activities and the home.



Basic Applications:

The diary records late coming, behaviour, etc. The diary records medical requirements and interventions, sports, etc.

The educator guides the class regarding the journal - directing to pathways of SMART goal-setting or challenges embed in iCare, iConnect, iPlay, iLearn, iCode, iCreate. Journaling is better enjoyed during/after SURE. It should be quick.

Hoofies family members to be written down as part of the first session; initiated by Grade 7 Leader.