

# FEATURE TEACHER

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## Jon Moore



### History/Psychology, Independence High School

**How do you support building a positive and safe online learning environment for your students?**

YouTube has a variety of settings that allow you to restrict comments. I am also able to control the environment because it is not a live feed. That way I can guarantee that nothing inappropriate is presented in front of my students.

**Do you have a super awesome success story from 2020?**

I was super proud of my students that continued to be engaged last spring even though they knew they were not being evaluated. Motivation has been a key issue this year and I feel like I have created a fun learning environment where students feel worthy and confident to succeed. I love teaching through telling stories and trying to make historical content relate to modern American life.

**What do you do to encourage online classroom participation?**

I have been creating YouTube videos that students can access at their own pace. I feel like this has provided flexibility in the learning schedule to accommodate hectic family lives that everyone has been having during the pandemic.

**Parent Communication... What's working for your families?**

Linking Schoology to all my devices has proven effective because I get notifications when I receive a message from a parent or a question from a student. This has allowed me to give prompt responses even outside of my regular working hours.

**What methods have been effective in teaching during a pandemic?**

Doing a lot of planning upfront and preparing lessons ahead of time so that I can give my focus to the students when they are in the classroom. Before the pandemic, I was not aware of a lot of the capabilities of Schoology and now I feel as though I am an expert!

**Share something positive about teaching in 2020.**

I have found in teaching this year that I have really had to broaden my abilities in the use of technology and feel now that I have achieved mastery in a variety of educational technologies. I feel like I am a better teacher having endured against the obstacles that this year has brought. It also seems like students that care about their education are much more appreciative about being in a classroom with their teacher. Having a reliable and trustworthy figure that they know they can count on has been a real boost to mental morale.