Two Critical Trends in Instruction: Are you Ready for this Fall?

As we get close to winding down this school year, and Fall starts to enter our distant horizon, it's worth considering all that's changed this school year. Much like the rest of the world which is changing rapidly, adapting to new educational trends can offer significant time savings, and in some cases may be a necessity to ensure that instruction undisturbed amidst all the recent changes in technology.

So, as you wind down this year, ask yourself if you're ready for these two important trends next Fall:

1. Students using ChatGPT on everything.

The Problem: When Microsoft-backed OpenAI released their "ChatGPT" artificial intelligence chatbot earlier this year (which if you haven't already heard about it... check it out at www.chat.openai.com), nearly every industry from engineers, to artists, and writers, were concerned that they would be out of a job due to how quickly ChatGPT can generate incredibly detailed, human-seeming conversation, answers, and even full essays. Soon, it became clear to most educators that the primary use-case for ChatGPT was, unfortunately, as a tool to write academic essays and cheat in online exams. While there is immense value in this technological advancement, it cannot come at the cost of our own human education.

How Schools are Solving it: While some ChatGPT detection tools sprang up quickly in response to ChatGPT, they are easily defeated with even simple changes to a few words to make content seem more human. With the release of the new generation ChatGPT-4, these tools are now sometimes even fooled by unedited content directly from GPT-4. Luckily, Wise Education has created a simple tool called "Authoriginal" or "AO" for short, that completely prevents the use of ChatGPT, other AI assistants, and other forms of plagiarism, while not impacting the student writing experience in any way. As a simple LMS-integrated applet, schools are seeing Authoriginal as a simple and effective way to prevent rampant ChatGPT plagiarism.

What You Should Do Next: Investigate what your school is doing to prevent ChatGPT plagiarism. If the answer is 'nothing yet', or putting the expectation on instructors to figure out how to design around it, it may be worth a look at tools like Authoriginal, that can solve the problem cleanly. Authoriginal has a free tier, primarily for piloting, and a paid tier for official use – please reach out to us if you would like to learn more, and we can provide special incentives and benefits as part of MISBO.

2. Finally Digitizing Attendance Taking and Compliance.

The Problem: As we all know, attendance taking isn't just important for classroom management, but is often critical for compliance. Unfortunately, what is an important footnote in class, becomes something that takes up a significant amount of time for

instructors and administrators. Most schools today are using the typical antiquated method for attendance taking, where instructors are responsible for tracking, consolidating, then uploading attendance information every class to the learning management system, or sending directly to the administration who then must consolidate and re-format the data to be used for compliance purposes. This can all be a significant drain on the institution.

How Schools are Solving it: While most schools are still doing it the old fashioned way, some schools have rushed to 'digitize' attendance and have implemented large, command-and-control type systems that can automate and manage everything from attendance compliance to parent requests and execused absences. What many of these schools are finding is that too much tech and automation can be detrimental, as these large systems are just as bulky and time consuming to use as doing it the old fashioned way. Luckily, tools including the one that Wise Education offers, called "Wise Attend", are solving this by having a happy medium – a simple, automated attendance taking tool that gives data directly to the administration – neat, tidy, and ready for use in compliance tasks.

What You Should Do Next: Have a conversation with instructors, and compliance-focused members of the admin team, to determine whether your school could benefit from having the attendance process automated. If so, it may be worth examining solutions like Wise Attend which provide 'just enough' tech to make life easy in the classroom.

If you're interested in learning more about these two trends, or are interested in either Authoriginal, or Wise Attend, please feel free to reach out! As always – for MISBO schools, we're happy to provide free consultations and guidance on any EdTech solution or classroom challenge, in addition to special discounts and incentives on our own solutions – we're always happy to see how we can help.

Yours in Education, Ian Hartley (415) 827-6936 www.wiseattend.com