Global teaching trends that could benefit SA education

By **Shaun Fuchs**

Education is the cornerstone of personal advancement, progress and innovation in our world. Yet, in South Africa, our education system is still rooted in a 20th century landscape with passive, static teaching methods. Our education system has not caught up with current world trends. We're not teaching our children to be critical thinkers and we haven't adapted our education system to the new world.

I believe there are the three major, global education trends we need to integrate into our education system so that our children are able to take their rightful place in the world.

Teaching methodology

Gamification – this approach aims to motivate students by incorporating video game design and gaming elements into the process of learning. The gamification technique recreates the same factors in the classroom, integrating elements from games to provide students with opportunities to act autonomously and to display competence. Apart from that, gamification techniques have been proven to aid in cognitive development in adolescents, and teachers can use gamification to level up engagement and competition in the classroom.

Having incorporated gaming into our school has taught our students to learn to work together, use strategic thinking and planning, learn time management, and how to manage success and failure.

Steam (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) learning – includes more creativity in the learning process than its predecessor Steam. The goal of STEAM-based learning is to assist students to develop skills they will require to be successful in the future. Irrespective of the industry they are interested in, it is critical that students enter university or the industrial workforce with a set of well-rounded skills that allow them to easily adapt to an ever-evolving and fast-paced environment. One of the most important factors of this educational approach is that students aren't just taught the subjects, but they are also taught how to learn, how to ask questions, how to experiment, and how to create and innovate.

Technology is crucial

Our children face a completely different world from the one their parents and grandparents grew up in. With the exponential speed of technological change, they need to be equipped to manage these advancements.

Every single job in the real world requires some form of technology, which is why we use the full suite of Microsoft applications, like MS Outlook, Teams, One Note, Word, Powerpoint and more.

These are integrated into the daily functions of our classrooms, pedagogy and school operations. In addition, we also teach technology-based subjects and courses that focus on cryptocurrencies, Blockchain and coding and are all a part of the school curriculum.

Students study Adobe Suite, which focuses on creative and digital innovation, and Studio One, which is all about music production and film scoring.

These subjects develop students' natural ability to construct, hypothesise, explore, experiment, evaluate and draw conclusions.

■ Fuchs, founder and CEO of Centennial Schools