OLTD 511 ePortfolio Reflection #1

OLTD Program Learning Outcome(s):
- Demonstrate understanding of common terms, definitions and models related to blended learning.
- Develop a theoretical understanding of Blended Learning and the models associated with it.
- Examine specific case studies of Blended Learning and assess their ability to engage a variety of learners.
- Critically assess and evaluate resources for best practice in blended learning
- Engage in reflection of your readings, practice and learnings throughout the course

Evidence:
Assessing Blended Learning Programs

OLTD 511 Assignment #2 - Assessing Blended Programs
Jeff Brisbois

Program: The Impact Academy
Video #: 12

Blended Model: Enriched Virtual Model

Summary: In this model students work online and at home but can get face-to-face assistance from teachers if they are struggling. Students access course content through learning management software at home. Students have a lot of control over when, where, and how they learn but still have the support of a teacher when required.

Rank: 1

Rationale/Justification: I like how this model empowers learners and has them take ownership and responsibility for their education. Students have to figure out what works best for them and can complete their work at the own pace, in their own place, on their own schedule. I think this model can potentially be the most socially isolating of all the models.

Is this a school/program I would want to send my own children to? (Y/N) __N__

	Baseline	Effective	Exemplary
Cat 1: Learner Support and		Students spend most of their time learning	

Program: Carpe Diem
Video #: 10

Blended Model: Flex

Summary: Students perform most of their work following an individualized online curriculum in a central learning lab comprised of 300 cubicles. The computers adapt and prescribe curriculum for each student individually. They also send data to teachers to analyse and use to customize instruction for students. Once students have learned concepts from the computers they move to a classroom where a teacher gives them projects and learning activities to provide them with context and critical thinking skills.

Rank: 3

Rationale/Justification: I like the professional atmosphere at this school and how students can learn on their own in a private cubicle away from the distractions of their peers. I think this is more effective than a flipped classroom because students are provided time at school to learn the material and are not expected to do it for homework. Like most of these US models, it does seem a little too corporate and focused on standardized tests and saving money.

Is this a school/program I would want to send my own children to? (Y/N) __Y__

	Baseline	Effective	Exemplary
Cat 1: Learner Support and Resources			There seems to be a strong sense of community and relationships between

Reflection:

The piece of evidence I have chosen to support the above learning outcomes is the blended learning program assessment I completed on November 9th 2018 during week 2 of OLTD 511. In this assignment we were asked to watch 15 videos of various types of blended learning programs and chose 10 to complete a brief assessment on. In our assessment we were asked to rank the programs from 1-10, state which type of blended learning program they fall under, write a brief summary of the video, and to fill out a rubric assessing each program.

I learned a number of things by creating this assignment. By stating which type of blended learning model each program was I was able solidify my understanding of the main categories of blended learning: station rotation, flipped classroom, flex, a la carte, and enriched virtual. Watching videos of schools running each type of program allowed me to link the theory from the readings to real examples. By assessing each program based on the learner support and resources, online organization and design, instructional design and delivery, assessment and evaluation of student learning, innovative teaching with technology, and faculty use of feedback I was able to recognize the strengths and weaknesses of each model and which elements of certain programs appealed to me the most. This also gave me some ideas and real examples of how I could incorporate blended learning into my classroom. I think the strength of this piece of evidence is that it shows that I have an understanding of each type of blended learning model.

Having a theoretical understanding of each blended learning model and being able to critically assess them is very important to an online educator because it allows them to make an informed decision on which type of learning model to implement into their practice. Having an understanding of all models also gives them the ability to take aspects they like from each model and create their own hybrid blended learning model that is tailored to the specific needs of their situation. I could personally implement this concept into my teaching by taking certain elements from blended learning models that I feel would be effective in my classroom such as having students work through units at their own pace through learning management software.