George Couros

The Future of Education and Education Expert

“We need to focus not only what we know, but what we do with what we know to improve education everywhere. Embracing change can create better powerful learning opportunities for our learners.”

- George Couros

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Edmonton, Alberta
George Couros is a leading keynote speaker on innovative leadership, teaching, and learning in the education sector. He has worked with all levels of school—from K-12 as a teacher and technology facilitator to school and district administrator. He is also the author of the bestselling book “The Innovator’s Mindset: Empower Learning, Unleash Talent, and Lead a Culture of Creativity”.

Couros is a sought-after speaker on the topic of innovative student learning and engagement. He has worked with schools and organizations around the globe. George is also the creator of ConnectedPrincipals.com. Connected Principles is an initiative that brings educators and leaders together from around the world to create powerful learning opportunities for students.

Although George Couros is a leader in innovation, his focus is always the development of leadership and people and what is best for learners. He believes meaningful change happens when you connect to people’s hearts. Couros models this message through his writing and speaking.

As an educator, this is the best time to be a part of school as the opportunities for learning for both ourselves and our students has increased exponentially. It is our willingness to connect with one another that provides these opportunities. George Couros will highlight some of the trends that are happening in both the world and education. He shares some of the ways that educators are and can create inspiring learning opportunities for a new generation of learners.

George Couros is the Division Principal of Innovative Teaching and Learning for Parkland School Division. He has worked with all levels of school from K-12 as a teacher, technology facilitator, and school-based administrator. He is one of North America’s leading experts on innovative student learning and engagement. His focus is to help organizations create optimal learning environments for innovation within schools.

Couros uses humour as a way to connecting with all of those that he works with. George Couros’ presentations are informative and entertaining, yet create an emotional connection that helps people move to the next level. His mix of research, personal stories, and practical ways to implement new learning help participants feel comfortable in taking risks in their own learning.
The Innovator’s Mindset

Carol Dweck’s work has focused on the ideas of “fixed” and “growth” mindset, yet educators will need to go a step further with these notions to create the learning opportunities and that our students and schools deserve. We need to focus not only what we know, but what we do with what we know. In this talk, George will discuss the idea and characteristics of “The Innovator’s Mindset” and share powerful examples on why this is so crucial for all educators. George’s presentations are known to be emotional, humorous, all while pushing your thinking, and will definitely connect to your heart first, in a way that will last with you long after this presentation.

Business innovation and leadership

The idea of the “Innovator’s Mindset” moves to focus not only on what we know but what we do with what we know. In this talk, George will discuss the idea and characteristics of “The Innovator’s Mindset” and share persuasive examples on why this is so crucial for what we do in our organizations to embrace, but more importantly, create new opportunities.
Leading Innovative Teaching and Learning

Although schools are moving forward, change is always something that many struggles with. Focusing on an innovator’s mindset and our “why”, this workshop is meant for leaders to help others within their organization not only accept change, but embrace it, to create better powerful learning opportunities for our learners. It is not focused on the “how to” of technology, but is more focused on the conversations that will help staff move forward in a way that they will be excited yet feel supported in their journey.

Leading Innovation in Our Organizations

Change is the only constant in our world today, but learning and growth are always optional. Organizations that focus on developing an “Innovator’s Mindset” at the individual and organizational level, will set themselves apart and ensure continued relevance in our world today. But how do we get ourselves and our people to get to that point? In this talk, George Couros will share concrete examples of what successful organizations from schools to businesses, have done to help people not only embrace change but to create it in meaningful ways. To help our people move forward, it is imperative that we do things differently to empower them to lead at all levels.
The role of school/district administrator is essential to what happens in the classroom, yet we often are unaware of some of the amazing opportunities that social media is not only providing our students and teachers, but ourselves as well. As school administrators, we need to be the “Learning Leader” for our organization and social media gives us the opportunity to connect, openly learn, and humanize our organization. When we learn together first, only then can we effectively lead our schools to continuous improvement.

5 Questions You Should Ask Your Leader

The role of school or district administrator has changed dramatically and instead of people serving the leader, it is more important that it is the other way around. In this talk/workshop, George discusses five key questions that we need to be able to answer as leaders and the innovative ways that we need to look at our role as administrators.

Learning By Design

We know that the role of school has change, but it is important for people to understand why it needs to change. Once that can be established, then we are more likely to embrace this change, and move forward with the learning of ourselves, and more importantly help our students move forward as well. In this talk, George will discuss the “why” of change, and then using the ISTE Nets, give examples on “how” we can make this happen.

The Myths of Technology and Learning

This keynote helps to address some of the “myths” or pushback that many organizations go through in moving technology forward in their organizations. With many powerful and personal stories of how technology can improve learning and relationships, this has been a great opportunity to help those reluctant move forward in their thinking and adopt a growth mindset.

What to look for in Today’s Classroom

The focus of the classroom has, for the better, shifted from a focus on the teacher to a focus on the learner. In this talk, George will share several elements of what we should be looking for in today’s classroom, knowing that focusing on only a few at a time, can start the move towards a transformational learning environment.

From Digital Citizenship to Digital Leadership

We often tell our students that what they do online can affect their future, but do we share or teach them how their online presence can also provide them opportunities that we never had as kids? There are many great examples of people and students doing things to not only improve their own opportunities, but to improve the lives of those in their school, communities, and around the world. Kids have an opportunity to make a difference and we need to focus on giving them both the opportunities and tools to make a difference in their world through the effective use of technology and social media.
Involving Parents in the Process of Learning

Parent involvement in the learning process of schools is the number one factor for student success. As schools look forward towards using social media to improve learning in their schools, many parents are fearful of what this means. Social media provides an opportunity for parents to have meaningful engagement in the learning of their child. This can greatly change the conversations not only at school, but also at home with the child. This talk provides peace of mind to parents while also engaging them in considering the unique opportunity they have to participate in their child’s learning.
Social Media and Learning

When working with groups, George encourages discussing the “why” through a keynote then following up with hands-on workshops. This pushes learning forward, having participants leave with ready to use tools and educators ready to implement their new learning immediately.

Examples of workshops on specific ideas and tools that George provides are:

- What is innovation in education and how do we move forward?
  - Twitter for administrators/educators/parents
  - Blogs as a portfolio
  - Google Apps in the Classroom
  - Web 2.0 Tools for learning/communication
  - Creating a Digital Footprint for our Students
  - Digital Literacy
  - Digital Identity
  - Creating Blended Learning Environments
Videos

George Couros || How to Get People to Move Forward || Speakers Bureau of Canada
Watch Video

George Couros || 40 Characters of Kindness || Speakers Bureau of Canada
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George Couros || MiniKeynote iPadalooza 2016 || Speakers Bureau of Canada
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The Innovator’s Mindset

Kids walk into schools full of wonder and questions. How you, as an educator, respond to students’ natural curiosity can help further their own exploration and shape the way they learn today and in the future. The traditional system of education requires students to hold their questions and compliantly stick to the scheduled curriculum. But our job as educators is to provide new and better opportunities for our students. It’s time to recognize that compliance doesn’t foster innovation, encourage critical thinking, or inspire creativity—and those are the skills our students need to succeed. In THE INNOVATOR’S MINDSET, George Couros encourages teachers and administrators to empower their learners to wonder, to explore—and to become forward-thinking leaders. If we want innovative students, we need innovative educators. In other words, innovation begins with you. Ultimately, innovation is not about a skill set but about mindset.
“The first Keynote Speaker, George Couros, was inspirational and thought provoking. His session was titled “Teaching and Learning in the Digital Age” and his key message was “Learn, Connect, Humanize”. In this one hour presentation I wanted to learn how, as a teacher, I can connect and engage with my students and school community more. George challenged me to think about how I was doing this and although I had started a blog and was using it in my class it wasn’t quite connecting the way I had wanted.”

Kathy Turley

“George Couros wowed the Alberta School Board Association last night with his passion and skill for using social media in his division (Parkland School Division 70) to build connection to create collaborative learning. He stated many times it’s not about technology – it’s about relationships!”

Kim Bater

The keynote presenter, George Couros, is a fantastic speaker who put everything into the perspective of a school and teaching situations. His presentation and “Master Class” has been instrumental in changing paradigms for me, my colleagues and counterparts...For me personally, I have made changes that will be reflected in my teaching and professional practices for the duration of my career.”

Rachael Bath, regarding the CEGSA 2012 Conference

“Thank you to George Couros for the wonderful impact he has had and continues to have on our district. His ongoing commitment to our learning is profound. Thank you for connecting and building relationships with all of us. You stretch our thinking and compel us to engage in new behaviors to push our learning, practice and influence forward.”

Elisa Carlson, Director of Instruction, Surrey Schools

“George Couros came to SCH and connected with our faculty in ways I have not seen with other speakers, educators, and experts. He is engaging, respectful, and knowledgeable and his blogs should be required reading. We are still talking about ways to go further and deeper with our entrepreneurial program. It’s exciting to imagine how a wider web of educators will begin to spin education differently for our children.”

Priscilla Sands, President, Springside Chestnut Hill Academy

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