Title: “Edgility” is the best antidote!

Company/Organization: World Academy

Type of Organization: For profit

Number of Employees: <100

Category: Workplace

Challenge or Opportunity: We have the challenge to shape today's children to become future world leaders, innovators, creators, entrepreneurs, athletes, and entertainers! World Academy is constantly evolving to offer our students meaningful, relevant and progressive learning opportunities. We must help our students become critical thinkers, creative collaborators and innovative communicators so they can impact their futures with leadership, compassion and intelligence. This was particularly challenged during the pandemic.

Approach or Solution: Our mission, “to prepare our students for success in a diverse and rapidly changing world through a transformative and innovative education, whole child focus and family engagement,” guides our vision, curriculum and program planning. During the pandemic our teachers’ edgility (educational agility) turned the challenge into an opportunity as they stayed focused on our mission and reacted quickly and effectively to give our students diverse learning opportunities and skills when other programs faltered. During the pandemic our administration immediately revamped our HVAC system before anyone thought to do so. We procured learning stations for every classroom so that remote students and in-class students could participate as if they were all in class together. We became a CLIA lab to do our own testing to give us data in realtime. Our teachers were fast tracked on quality remote instruction so our students would not miss a moment of their education.

Impact: We witnessed our students maintain their gapless education and growth through the support and edgility of our teachers. Our families became an important part of our team, keeping us healthy through their vigilance and following all protocols which enabled us to continue hybrid classes until in-person was reinstated much earlier than other programs. Our students flourished and thrived, strengthened their social emotional connections as they stayed in school with their peers, and our home/school bond was strengthened as families trusted our ability to support their student’s well-rounded experiences. Of greatest value was the connection that bound our team of teachers who knew they had achieved something special in the face of a great challenge!