A Personal Approach on Education By M. Taylor Bourne, Belmont Secondary, SD 62 Sooke

M. Taylor Bourne. M. Taylor Bourne M. Taylor Bourne. The human brain transfers information from short term memory to long term when it is repeated. The more information is repeated the more likely it will be remembered. So by the end of reading this essay you will be more likely to remember my name over all the others. The same applies with education: the more the subject you are learning is reviewed, the more likely you are to pass the test. Personalized learning does just this. Students work at their own pace, reviewing what they are struggling with and moving on with the subject they are confident with. With personalized learning no kid is left behind or slowed down because everyone is accommodated to their understanding of the subject.

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Students that do not grasp material as well as others tend to be left behind when a class is taught as a group. These students get left behind and begin to give up struggling in the school system. But with personalized learning, no student is left in the shadows and everyone gets special attention for their specific needs. The stereotypically labeled "dumb kids" may not be intellectually challenged at all and may just need more time to review and focus on a certain subject. These students that are falling behind are more likely to start working at a young age and live in poverty; however, if they are never left behind in schooling, then the chances of that future are greatly reduced. The same idea applies to handicapped individuals. For them to understand, lots of repetition and time is needed to be spent on one subject for it to stick in the brain.

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There are struggling learners and there are people on the other side of the spectrum, the gifted or faster learners. If these individuals are not pushed and provided with a curriculum of more challenging literature, they will begin to lose interest, focus and try less and less. This is not the ideas society should be teaching our future generation. Society needs people that are ready to go the extra distance and make ground breaking feats. Personalized learning can be adjusted to give the student more information and more challenging questions to keep them engaged in subjects but still push them to achieve. This will inevitably help them with a job and life because if you are always pushing to do better and work harder you will be recognized and rewarded for your efforts.

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No matter if you are a fast or slow learner, everybody has their strong and weak subjects and concepts. For a full understanding of the weaker subjects, more time to review is needed; but with the stronger subjects, the student may only need a light reviewing of the subject as a reminder. With a personalized curriculum, each person can spend more time on their weaknesses and less time on the subjects they know, allowing for greater all round. This easily transfers to a career and life. For example, if you are struggling with a skill needed in your work place, you don't just give up and move

on. You assess what it will take to change and you work on it to become better. These initiatives rarely go unrecognized and will push you higher in a career setting. The same can be said for life in general: if you work on the weak areas of your life and brush up on your strengths, you will become a better person.

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No person is the same as any other and that is why personalized education is in the future of schooling. It adapts to every complicated individual for their goals and learning to become the best they can be. Success in education is a key factor in an individual's success in a career. Furthermore many of the principles stressed in education are the same standards stressed in a work place - understanding, improving on weaknesses, working to your strengths, and giving the best effort you can. Undoubtedly they reoccur in life as well. School is not just about English, Mathematics, History, and other subjects; it is also about life skills such as work ethics, persistence, and adapting. That is what these types of programs are teaching. M. Taylor Bourne. M. Taylor Bourne M. Taylor Bourne.