Teacher community support is essential

1. Administrators can help educators by providing support, particularly technical support. Districts and department heads should designate “online learning” subject matter experts on their faculty to teach their peers--as well as students and others--about the various tools and technologies they’ll need to be using for the remainder of the year.

2. Although switching to remote instruction can be overwhelming, it will get better. In these unprecedented circumstances, teachers should get comfortable with failing fast, iterating more quickly and learning from mistakes.

3. Talk to your colleagues. Set up virtual faculty lounges and hold them each day. Learning that others share your challenges can alleviate negative feelings. Often in a teaching community, different people will come up with solutions to different shared issues. Make use of the opportunity to connect and share resources and solutions.

Tips summarized from a discussion with Professor Martin Schedlbauer from Northeastern University’s Khoury College. Professor Schedlbauer has been practicing remote instruction since 1999. In light of COVID-19, he is offering his first-hand insight to educators at all levels who are grappling with how to effectively engage with their students from a distance. To review Professor Schedlbauer’s advice, please visit this link.

Watch the video on YouTube.