CHIJ St Joseph’s Convent is a school of choice for both students and teachers alike as the school is on the Home Room system. Most schools in Singapore operate on a classroom system where students are permanently stationed in one room with the subject teachers moving from class to class, carrying all their teaching craft, resources and materials, very much like nomads who moved with all their stock as the environment controlled them. Their teaching power was limited to whatever resources they could carry and set up in class.

In CHIJ St Joseph’s Convent, however, the teachers are assigned permanent Home Rooms where they are able to stock IT hardware like computers, visualizers and LCD Projectors and all their other non-technology resources eg models, charts, reading kits, games besides arranging the physical furniture in the room to support and facilitate various teaching strategies. Thus, thanks to Home Rooms, teachers in the Convent are able to control their teaching environment!

It is the permanence of the Home rooms and the ability to control their teaching environment that spawned numerous innovative teaching practices in the Convent. The teachers are able to cater to the different learning styles of their students and the different multiple intelligences in the class. The teachers are also able to cater for the varying needs of their students as all classes are mixed ability groups.

The Home Rooms have evolved as Learning Centers from stimulating classroom environments (2001) to greater use of IT via cloned lessons, animated power-point presentations which feature the virtual teacher, and other teacher-created resources (2002 - 2004) to student-centred lessons/student-created lessons (2004-5). This year, 2006, the Convent promoted Action Research to build a Community of Reflective Practitioners via protected time for reflective practices and whole-school staff training in Action Research methodology as a natural follow-up to validate the effectiveness of the various teaching and learning strategies that were spawned by the Home Rooms.

In this workshop, with a co-presenter, I will be sharing some of our innovative pedagogical practices:

- **Home Room Set-up (Video Presentation)**
  Conference attendees will be taken on a ‘virtual’ visit to the Convent via a Video presentation showcasing how teachers have maximized wall space within the classroom as well as along the corridors. Attendees will also be briefed on how learning corners and other resources stocked up in the Home Rooms facilitate independent learning besides providing an intellectually stimulating environment.
• Differentiated Learning (Grouping Techniques / Video Presentation)

Attendees will be assigned to various groups so that they will be able to appreciate how varying needs and different learning styles of students are catered for via grouping techniques and physical arrangement of furniture in the Home Room.

Attendees will also be informed of research findings carried out in the Convent with reference to the impact and effectiveness of various grouping strategies (Homogenous versus heterogenous) on the types of tasks assigned to students.

Attendees will also be shown another video showcasing how differentiated tasks can be carried out simultaneously in the Home Room to cater for the different needs and learning styles of students.

• Resource Development – Student-created and Teacher-created

Attendees will be shown snippets / samples of student and teacher created resources and informed of the research findings on the impact of cloned lessons as well as animated power point lessons on test scores of students.

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