



Canvas LMS in the Classroom

6 Reasons to Use Canvas LMS in the Physical Classroom

Deliver consistency

By using the same LMS across an entire district, leaders can better scale quality instruction, students have a consistent experience across classes and grades, and parents can support all their children in one easy-to-use system.

Build a foundation for digital learning

Using a Canvas LMS as a centralized hub for learning means all online learning tools are connected in one location, so students focus on learning the content, not the technology. And an LMS helps students of all ages build digital literacy that will benefit them throughout their lives.

Capitalize on last year's investments

During the pandemic, investment in educational technology—both software and devices—was essential. Teachers have made a huge time investment to move their materials and instruction online, and they can now build on that work.

Invest in hybrid as the new normal

Although many schools will return to face-to-face learning, hybrid learning is here to stay. The continued use of an LMS means learning can continue outside of the physical classroom. Students can easily access materials from anywhere, whether they are simply absent or need to transition to remote learning.

Meet students' and parents' needs

Many students and parents are open to online and blended learning and have adopted the tech tools that allow everyone to stay connected, organized, and on the same page. An LMS also supports teachers in delivering learning experiences that support diverse learners and multiple learning styles.

Differentiate instruction in and out of the classroom

Students are likely to have a wide range of learning needs when they return this fall. Canvas LMS makes it easier to differentiate learning paths, even in the physical classroom. Students gain autonomy to access instructional content on their own, whether they need to go back or move ahead in their learning.





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40 Ways to Use Canvas in the Classroom

- Create deeper dialogues by asking students to post their thoughts using Discussions; this gives students who may be too shy to speak up in class a voice.
- Use Discussions as bell ringers to help activate prior learning.
- Create virtual “gallery walks” with digital artifacts using Discussions, giving students a place to display their work proudly.
- Share a writing prompt in Canvas or display on the board, and ask students to work independently. Set a time limit to make it a fun stream-of-consciousness activity.
- Utilize Discussions for end-of-unit reviews by assigning topics to groups and asking them to create content and to share with the class.
- Ask students to watch a video and record their thoughts, identify themes or main ideas, or answer comprehension questions.
- Use Discussions for homework collaboration and questions, building peer-to-peer relationships, or for embedding digital citizenship in your content areas, like holding pro-con-style debates.
- Start class with a quick check-in quiz to gauge understanding of the previous day’s content to direct the lesson for that day.
- Use Quizzes as a survey tool to gather input from the class.
- Post a rubric in Canvas and ask students to review it and check for areas they can improve before submitting their work.
- Quizzes can be used to show students how much they’ve grown by comparing results at the beginning and end of an instructional period.
- Use Quizzes for guided notes, like KWLHs (know-want-learn-how), for example.
- Easily organize and present digital information from SMARTBoards and/or tools like Nearpod.
- Use the To-Do List and calendar for students to stay organized as they start each school day.
- Effectively eliminate a mess of resources by using Canvas as an interactive outline or notebook where students can view a module and progress through the unit using the “next” button, whether everyone is learning together or students are moving at their own pace.
- Creating a weekly agenda with hyperlinks for students to access in the classroom or at home with parents.
- Offer students a digital Planner they can access in class or at home using the calendar, the To-Do List, and syllabus.
- Students can complete assignments in class using Google or Microsoft tools.
- Conduct a daily or weekly “check-in” that allows learners to pause and meditate to support students with social/emotional feelings. Allow them the choice of how they want to share their feelings, whether that is writing, typing, or recording audio or video.
- Create a smiley-face system so students can report their social-emotional state in a hot-spot question or as a check for understanding privately.
- Use emojis and buttons for a visual representation for young learners who can’t read and ask them to follow along with the lesson.
- Ask students to complete assignments on their own; use a stop sign graphic on a page, or an image embedded into the Module to clearly indicate starting and stopping points.
- Use Speedgrader to assess presentations in real-time.
- When teaching languages, have students record video or audio assignments and submit through Canvas. No need to pull kids out of the classroom one by one!



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- Create videos with Canvas Studio and ask students to watch a series of videos based on their specific needs or interests; ask them to record their response digitally in Canvas or in paper and pencils.
- Skip paper printouts by having students pull up materials on their device, encouraging them to read along.
- Have students create fully or partly-digital notebooks within a module of Canvas; these notebooks can contain notes, assignments, and activities, just like a physical notebook, but simplifies the grading process.
- Use Conferences to communicate with students who are learning from home and allow them to connect with their peers through video.
- Provide different ways of digesting learning materials to provide an equitable experience, giving students the option to read, watch a video, listen to the teacher read the directions—whatever best supports their learning style.
- Offer variety and keep students engaged by connecting to popular interactive instructional content and tools.
- Allow students to demonstrate their knowledge in several ways, like typing their answers, taking a picture, or uploading a video.
- Use the free version of Badgr to make custom badges for students as they achieve mastery of skills and contents.
- Embed links into Canvas for students to access at their own pace, in groups, or as an entire class.
- Ask students to provide constructive feedback for a student speech or performance using Discussions.
- Easily manage projects by giving students access to instructions, rubrics, check point assessments, group collaboration, etc., inside Canvas. Students can view these materials on their during the school day as needed.
- Jumpstart blended learning in Canvas by creating Announcements, leveraging the Calendar and adding a class resource Module so students can access what they need from everywhere.
- Use Groups to have teams to work collaboratively on projects and assignments. Posting a short video that explains assignments or works through problems, so students can progress at their own pace.
- Create learning stations that correspond with Modules in Canvas, allowing students to move around the room and complete the lessons that interest them, using both digital and physical materials.
- Create reading stations and ask students to post their reflections of the reading using audio or Discussions, or demonstrate their comprehension in Quizzes.
- Divide students into mastery groups and have them complete an assigned Pathway that matches their level of understanding.

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