



Happy New Year!

As we enter the new year, we wish to provide a comprehensive update on our educational technology landscape, with a specific focus on how Schoology strengthens teacher, student, and parent communication and its alignment with the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS).

Connecting to MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports):

In the context of MTSS, the adoption and continued use of Schoology aligns with the tiered framework to support student success. Schoology provides a centralized platform that supports not only academic instruction but also communication between teachers, students, and parents. This alignment facilitates a collaborative and comprehensive approach to education, addressing the diverse needs of students at various tiers of support. We have only scratched the surface of Schoology's capabilities, but once fully leveraged, it will significantly enhance our support for MTSS in these ways:

For teachers, Schoology acts as a centralized hub for organizing instructional materials, assessments, and communication. It empowers educators to analyze

student data, identify specific learning needs, and implement personalized interventions. The platform actively promotes collaborative planning, allowing educators to share resources, strategies, and insights, thereby enhancing support for students across various tiers. Leveraging Schoology's analytics tools, teachers can monitor student progress and adjust instructional approaches based on data, reinforcing the collaborative and data-driven essence of MTSS implementation. While we are currently in the process, ongoing professional development is planned to maximize these capabilities.

For students, Schoology plays a pivotal role in supporting the MTSS process by empowering students to advocate for themselves through transparent communication, access to resources, information for goal-setting, and progress monitoring, all within the framework of differentiated instruction. This student-centric approach encourages autonomy in their learning journey and ensures responsive instruction tailored to their needs. Although we have not fully realized this potential, our commitment to additional training and support positions us on the path to achieving these objectives.

For support staff and parents/guardians:

- 1. Access to Course Materials:** Support staff and parents/guardians can see what their kids are learning, assignments, and class resources.
- 2. Real-Time Updates:** Support staff and parents/guardians get instant updates and announcements from teachers, keeping them in the loop.
- 3. Assignment and Grade Visibility:** Support staff and parents/guardians can check their child's assignments, standards scores, and feedback from teachers.
- 4. Communication Tools:** Schoology has messaging and discussion tools for direct communication between parents/guardians and teachers.
- 5. Calendar Integration:** Schoology syncs with calendars so support staff and parents/guardians know about important dates, assignments, and events.
- 6. Portfolio and Showcase:** Students can showcase achievements, projects, and progress to parents/guardians.
- 7. Mobile Access:** The Schoology app lets parents/guardians stay connected on the go, receiving updates and messaging teachers from their mobile devices.
- 8. Parent-Teacher Conferencing:** Features for scheduling virtual conferences make it easy for parents/guardians and teachers to discuss a student's performance.
- 9. Customizable Notifications:** Parents/guardians can choose the notifications they want, keeping them informed without feeling overwhelmed.

10. Language Support: Schoology offers language support, making it accessible to parents/guardians who speak different languages.

Acknowledging and Addressing Dissatisfaction:

We acknowledge that some teachers have expressed dissatisfaction with the Schoology experience, and we appreciate the feedback. Active efforts are underway to address concerns and improve how we use Schoology. We are confident that a better understanding of the platform will enhance our overall experience.

We also acknowledge that the implementation roll out was not without its challenges. Despite our best efforts, unforeseen technical issues arose and we had to make live, real time adjustments to grading practices and report cards which pushed back the timeline. This left teachers with a lack of clarity that put them in uncomfortable situations when communicating with students and parents. No one likes to feel like they are unsure when performing their job responsibilities. This is especially true when it comes to grading and reporting. *We are sorry and committed to strengthening support in this area.*

While dissatisfaction can be disheartening, it is important to know that changing technology infrastructure is a complex task. The adoption process, technology integration, staff training and teacher onboarding took two years. ([Schoology Timeline](#)) We have just begun year three with the live implementation phase. We haven't fully realized the potential of Schoology and it is too premature to cut ties. It is also important to note that there is no quick fix and that we are committed to learning from mistakes and to continue training and supports as needed.

Adaptability in an Ever-Evolving Educational Landscape:

Our Learning Management System needs to cater to both in-person and remote learning environments, aligning with our commitment to readiness for online teaching and learning (differing weather closures by school or island, building closures, illness, etc). While not mirroring Google Classroom's dynamism in certain aspects, Schoology's interactive tools contribute to a more versatile online learning experiences. It also strengthens the comprehensive support network needed for MTSS as mentioned above.

In addition, the past year highlighted the importance of Schoology's streamlined onboarding process. Its centralized repository has proven crucial in supporting staff transitions, ensuring continuity, and maintaining instructional consistency.

Schoology's central location empowers administrators to access and transfer courses seamlessly, mitigating disruptions during mid-year teacher changes.

In closing, we express gratitude for the challenges and concerns raised by our teachers. We are dedicated to collaborative efforts to enhance the Schoology experience, ensuring positive results from the time and effort invested. Additionally, we are resolute in our dedication to enhancing and refining our [Technology Infrastructure](#).

Looking back with appreciation and looking forward with optimism,

JK & Rhonda