Recommendations for structuring Learning Management Systems during Remote Learning

Modern Classrooms Project

With millions of students not returning to physical classrooms this fall, teachers across the world are asking,

"*How can we organize digital classrooms to alleviate confusion and help students succeed?*"

Here are a few recommendations from our community of educators.

Clarity is key, especially during remote learning. In general,

- Ensure assignments have a clear and consistent naming pattern. We recommend a clear numbering system and brief description in the titles. To further aid self-pacing during the remote learning period, we also recommend you include "target dates" by which students should complete the lesson if they are to remain on pace.
    - (*example, first lesson of the first unit: "1.1: Intro to the Industrial Revolution- target date: Tues, Sept. 15*").
- If your learning management system (LMS) is Canvas, use the "module" feature to build units and structure individual lessons as "assignments". This guide will help you get started.
- If you use Google Classroom as your LMS , we encourage you to utilize the Classwork page rather than the Stream page. Over time, the Stream page can get confusing (for students) and hard to organize (for you). Here's our guide to Google Classroom layout.

To further aid LMS organization during remote learning,

- Embed a public pacing tracker into the course homepage of your LMS. Be sure to frame this as a positive tool that rewards progress and hard work, will never display a student's grade, and helps students know where they are within a unit.
    - Since teachers may not have an opportunity to build a classroom culture with all students on the roster, consider using Student IDs instead of names on the pacing tracker.
- Consider creating a digital unit checklist for each student, where they can easily track their own progress and know what they need to work on next.

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Here are specific suggestions for two popular learning management systems:	
Canvas	**Google Classroom**
• Control the number of pages students can see in the left-hand menu. See our explanation here. • Set a clear path using requirements. Our tutorial is here. • Control access to new material through prerequisites. Learn how here. • Use the calendar feature. See part 1 and part 2 of our tutorial.	• Utilize the "Mark as Done" feature. It allows students to keep track of what they have and have not yet reviewed. This video explains how it works. • Make a separate Topic for important links that students will use throughout the course. Then pin this at the top of your Classwork page.

Interested in learning more? Check out our guide to remote learning resources.

Does your school use a different LMS? Here's our guides to Seesaw and Schoology.

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