Virtual Classroom - Making an Informed Selection

Use this tool to better understand the differences and similarities between the 2 options for virtual classrooms in the district. 100% of KPBSD practitioners had a virtual classroom in Quarter 4. Part of the new norm starting this Fall is to capitalize on this experience and continue providing continuity for students and parents by maintaining a virtual layer to all classrooms. If your school has not already selected a single platform, then this Fall, your school will select either Google Classroom or Canvas as a schoolwide virtual platform. (Primary grades may select Seesaw as their platform.)

Basic Description

* Both options are a central location to help teachers manage coursework, boost collaboration and foster communication.*

Google Classroom is a streamlined and easy-to-use tool where assignments can be distributed, graded, and feedback given all in one place.

Canvas is a robust digital learning environment that can be used on a spectrum from a simple central learning hub to a complete online course.

Similarities - *Both Options have…*

- Multiple teachers can be added to one classroom to support single or multiple students
- Multiple submission options available
- Classes previously built are available to be copied for other teachers and reused
- Video conferencing tools* are built in (Google Meet, Canvas Conferences) *We are working on integration of Zoom into Canvas)
- Notification settings allow for a feedback and learning dialog between student and teacher to be continual and immediate
- To Do list for students
- Classwork can easily be assigned to individual students, groups of students, all students in a class.
- Automatic To Do list for teacher to see which assignments need to be reviewed/graded

Differences

- Format is standardized
- Offers deep integration with Google Tools
- Collaboration and Templates easily streamlined using Google Docs
- Google Calendar is automatically connected to student emails
- Sync and integrate class lists and assignments with outside tools
- Quizzes feature is a simplified version of Mastery Paths
- Opt-in weekly email summary of student progress for parents
- Multiple submission options available (Create button under student view)
- Classwork can easily be assigned to students in multiple classes.
- Real-time viewing of assignments

- Format is customizable
- KPBSD Templates called "Blueprints" auto-generated with district resources for ELA, Math, & Social Studies
- Course templates available Canvas Commons
- Courses auto-created by Powerschool + Gradebook sync
- KPBSD Curriculum integrations built in
- Mastery Paths & Outcome features can track student growth and personalize learning path
- Parent login available & app available
- Other providers (like aides) can be added as an observer to support a student directly
- Flexible Submission Formats offers student choice
- Teacher & Student Apps available
- Public view of course available (no student information)
- Student view available
- Can design (and control) progress through a module or

- Many tools integrate directly including NewsELA and Discovery Ed can be incorporated
- Classwork can be pulled from other classes ~ referred to as "reuse post".
- Class folder is automatically created in Google Drive for both teacher and student.

- assessment based on required conditions
- Hide materials and courses when not needed
- Option for students to mark assignments as done manually
- Adding multiple questions to a comment bank allows the questions to be randomly pulled for assigned student quizzes, making no two quizzes alike
- Like classes can be combined into one Canvas course (cross listing).
- Content + Assignments can be pulled from other classes ~ referred to as "import content".

Additional Considerations

- What did your school use in the past?
- What are your students and parents most familiar with?
- What are your needs as a practitioner? (support + structure OR freedom + design)
- What are the needs of your content area or age range?

*[Video Conference Tools Comparison - Collaborative Document](#)