

Non-LMS Toolkit Build

Communication

For communication I would use everything Google (Google forms, Google+, Google docs, and Google Hangout). By keeping all communication under one type of format makes it easier for students keep organized.

Google Forms is very useful for collecting information from students. You can quiz, give feedback, and survey students easily and effectively. By using a quiz one can check for understanding at any point of a course. Quizzing would allow the teacher to check for understanding or to reteach the missing concept before continuing with the next lesson. I would use the survey tool to see how the class feels about the course in general. Finally, the feedback tool could be used by both the instructor and student (peer mentoring and helping) to provide feedback to any work or presentation.

Google+ is very useful to communicate with fellow students. Once your private circle is created; the students simply post their comments. This is an excellent tool for teaching student how to communicate online while allowing freedom of speech. The instructor could post a variety of questions for students to respond to. Students could also post a question for the teacher. Google+ is useful for discussions, networking, peer helping, and communicating student to student or teacher to student.

Google Docs is a useful tool for students to collaborate with each other on an assignment. Google docs allows for each student to add their input into an assignment. This allows for all students to take part in group work.

Classjodo is an excellent communication tool. Although this tool is meant to aid in changing behaviours, it is great for communicating in real time with the parent. You can take a picture or text and send the message. The parent receives the message and can respond in seconds. This application brings the gap between school and home a lot closer.

Content

The most important part of any course is the content and a dashboard on how to assess the information. I am using weebly.com as my dashboard and powermylearning.org to supply much of my content.

Weebly.com is a website building tool that allows the user to build pages to act as a dashboard. By using a website as a dashboard, all students have access to all the links provide by the teacher. It is simple and easy to use. Assignments can be linked to resources easily. Students

can also share their files/assignment to the teacher through email linked to the dashboard. A calendar can easily be posted so student can keep track of due dates and important event.

Powermylearning.org and pbslearningmedia.org are excellent sources of materials to teach and to practice skills that have been taught. The materials are all children friendly and have been screen my educators. Material is easily found through easy to use search methods. Individual or whole class play lists can be made for students to complete. Students can be a self-paced learner, or work in a blended environment. These tools provide excellent content, lessons, and presentations to the learner.

I am also very interested in Raz-Kids. This content site would allow the user to read levelled material, be tested on it, and provide feedback to the teacher in the form of a grade book.

Processing Tools

Although pen and paper and word processors are still very valuable as a processing tool, we need to use a variety of ways to show our understanding of material taught.

Screencast-o-Matic is a screen and webcam recorder. It can capture video from your computer screen. This tool allows the user to communicate effectively using audio, video, and screen displays to easily convey information to the intended audience. The information could be sent directly to the teacher, or used in a presentation in class. This is an excellent presenting tool.

Conclusion:

This Non LMS toolkit will provide me with the necessary tools to effectively teach and organize my classroom. Each tool will help students enjoy their learning, communicate effectively, and provide feedback to both the student and teacher. These tools will aid in building better teacher-student relationships and link schools to home as well.