

Initiating a Remote Learning strategy during an extended break can be challenging. Follow these tips to keep student instruction steady and minimize disruption.

Transitioning from in-person teaching to delivering online courses can initially seem challenging for both instructors and students. The need to learn new technologies and to collaborate through various time zones may require additional time to be added to the syllabus. Teaching remotely may involve thinking creatively about how to revise the course syllabus to present direct instruction and remotely build students' knowledge and skills by providing robust opportunities to promote generative processing of content through collaborative assignments. Fortunately, with the right support and technology solutions it is possible to keep student instruction steady and instill lifelong learning within our students. An example of this adjustment may include delivering a lecture through Canvas, quizzing students through Microsoft Forms, and allowing students to collaborate on gathering research and preparing a presentation project in Microsoft Teams.

IMPORTANT FACTORS TO CONSIDER FOR REMOTE LEARNING



A key to remote learning is consistent and personalized communication.



Remain flexible when revising the syllabus and accommodating student needs.



Deliver content in 15-minute, user-controlled segments to reduce student cognitive load.



Incorporate formative assessments to gauge understanding and increase long-term retention of information.



Learning is social: Include opportunities for student synchronous and asynchronous collaboration.







REMOTE LEARNING:

Challenges & Software Solutions

To support students in remaining engaged and on target to achieve the most essential course objectives, a critical first step is developing a communication plan for your courses. Almost all Learning Management Systems (LMS), including Canvas, Blackboard and D2L, provide built-in communication tools such as discussion boards and announcements, but can also incorporate more personal tools such as Microsoft Teams, Panopto and Fligpgrid provide more robust video recordings and conferences. Keep in mind that students may not be able to attend the live discussions due to time zones and connectivity issues. Fortunately asynchronous instruction can be recorded and also be enhanced with the use of collaborative slide presentations created with Canvas, Panopto, Articulate 360 and Adobe Captivate. In these presentations, instructors can allow students to control the pacing to avoid cognitive overload. Assessments can also be delivered and captured in various formats digitally, ranging from traditional guizzes to creative projects. Most LMS have built-in assessment tools which can be used to ask multiple types of assessment questions. These products both allow for the instructor to select an autograde option which allows teachers and students to automatically receive assessment results. Project-based assessments and whole class or small group review can be facilitated through Microsoft Teams, Google Hangouts, Padlet, and VoiceThread. Rest assured, whatever the task, whatever the assessment there is a tool to help in your remote learning plan.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL CLASS VIDEO SESSIONS



Mute participant microphones



Use a headset or earbuds with built-in microphone



Review various features with students such as hand raising and nonverbal feedback



Utilize breakout rooms for small group discussions



Consider the use of a teaching assistant or student volunteer to monitor the chat feature

References:

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Mayer, R. E. (2019). Thirty years of research on online learning. Applied Cognitive Psychology, 33, 152–159. https://doi-org.proxy1.library.jhu.edu/10.1002/acp.3482

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Tools for Academic Continuity

	MICROSOFT EDU	GOOGLE EDU	PLATFORM AGNOSTIC
LMS/Lesson Delivery	Microsoft Teams Canvas Blackboard	Google Classroom Canvas Blackboard	Canvas Blackboard D2L
Lectures/Screencasts	Microsoft Teams	Google Hangouts Meet	Panopto Zoom Cisco Webex
Live Whiteboarding	Microsoft Whiteboard	Google Jamboard	Explain Everything
Student Collaboration/ Discussion	Microsoft Teams Microsoft SharePoint Microsoft Translator	Google Suite Google Translate	VoiceThread Padlet Slack
Formative/Summative Assessment	Microsoft Forms	Google Forms	Canvas Blackboard
Multimedia Course Authoring Tools	PowerPoint (0365)	Google Slides and Pear Deck	Articulate 360 Adobe Captivate
File Storage and Sharing	Microsoft OneDrive	Google Drive	Dropbox
Office Hours	Microsoft Teams	Google Room in Chats	Zoom Cisco Webex







REMOTE LEARNING:

Challenges & Software Solutions

Solution	Home-Based Student	Home-Based Teacher	Why Solution Is Recommended
Cisco Webex, Google Hangouts, Microsoft Teams	•	•	Videoconferencing and collaboration suite for class instruction
Laptop (Chrome, Windows, Apple)	•	•	Needed for access to learning management systems, productivity suites, online assignments, videoconferencing/class instruction, etc.
Internet Access	•	•	Needed for access to learning management systems, productivity suites, online assignments, videoconferencing/class instruction, etc.
Classroom Management Tool GoGuardian Teacher Lightspeed Relay	•	•	Classroom management solutions for monitoring and keeping remote students on task
Headset (with Microphone) · ThinkWrite Ultra Durable · AVID AE-55	•	•	Headset for teacher and students to hear and communicate with one another, or with other classmates with dramatically increased audio clarity via videoconferencing solutions
Videoconferencing Tools · Built–in Webcam · Logitech Pro Personal Video Collaboration Kit · Logitech BCC950 ConferenceCam · Logitech ConferenceCam Connect		•	The device's built-in webcam can be used, or opt for a third-party videoconferencing solution
Computer Monitor		•	External monitor for teachers allowing for a larger screen/workspace

Equity of Access for Students

Videoconferencing Rooms

VIDEOCONFERENCING PLATFORMS:





Google for Education

zoom

LOGITECH MEETUP OR RALLY:

Great for situations in which schools may want teachers to instruct homebound students from the school building.





