Why Canvas?

The Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) is the LCPS platform for remote learning. Although teachers have used a number of platforms, having a single platform will reduce the need for teachers, students, and families to learn how to navigate multiple digital learning environments, create multiple accounts, and manage various log-ins.

**Why Canvas?**

Canvas, like any other platform, is a space**. It is not grade or age specific**. As the name suggests, it’s a blank Canvas, ready for you. Canvas supports many file types and uploads of various sizes. It can be used on any device with Internet. There are iOS and Android apps for Students, Teachers and Parents. Canvas supports student accessibility with a variety of features and integrates with nearly all of the current technology tools currently being used in LCPS.

**Is Canvas a Safe and Secure Learning Space?**

* Canvas automatically installs security patches as soon as they’re available, so right now, Canvas could not be more secure.
* To ensure the privacy and security of your data, Canvas uses HTTPS for all communication and encrypts all inbound and outbound traffic using 128-bit TLS/SSL.
* The Canvas API uses the industry-standard OAuth2 protocol, which provides secure access to Canvas data while preventing direct access to Canvas databases.
* All Canvas user data is stored in highly stable, secure, and geographically diverse Amazon Web Services (AWS) data centers.
* Canvas data is backed up redundantly (every day). In case of emergency or disaster, data is recovered from Amazon servers or from our own off-site backup.

**How Can Canvas Help Me With Online Communication?**

Canvas has a notification system that will let teachers send messages to students as a group and individually. Additionally, teachers can communicate through announcements. Canvas also lets you individualize how you receive notifications. You, parents and students will be able to choose how to be notified about class communication.

**What About Google?**

Google tools (like docs, slides, forms, etc.) can be used inside of Canvas. Students will still have access to their entire LCPS Google account. LCPS Google Chrome and all extensions will also still be available. **The only part of the LCPS Google environment that is being removed is Google Classroom.** This will be disabled on August 1, 2020.

**Do We Still Have Zoom?**

Yes! This will integrate with Canvas so you will be able to use your Zoom account in a protected environment and will only need one login to access. Zoom meetings can also be integrated in your calendar.

Additionally, districtwide, teachers will have access to Canvas Studio, which allows you to create interactive videos in your class.

**What Else Can Canvas Do?**

Over the summer, Canvas and Synergy will be set up to communicate. So, you will be able to move your grades into Synergy with an easy process. As students enter the school district and are enrolled at your school, Canvas will update on a nightly basis.

You and your colleagues will also be able to easily share resources, learning modules, etc. through Canvas. There will be many opportunities for collaboration.

**Can Parents Observe in Canvas?**

Yes, Canvas has a feature that allows parents to receive a secure pairing code from their student. This will let the parent observe course activity.

**Where Can I Get Started?**

The Remote Learning Course in Canvas will be updated through the summer to include many resources for help. A number of professional development opportunities will be available to teachers to learn more about remote learning, Canvas features, and Google tools.

**What Will Be Going On This Summer?**

* Teams of teachers will be building course blueprints that teachers can use to build fully on-line or hybrid classes to use with students.
* Families who are interested in a fully on-line program will be asked to indicate their interest and capacity to support distance learning for the 2020-21 school year.

**How Can I Get More Help?**

Live Canvas help will be available via Zoom the following days and times throughout the summer:

* Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:30 – 12:30 (<https://lcps.zoom.us/j/91171667080?pwd=eE5lQmxHdk81ZFM5eWFLOHBheGRoZz09>)
* Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 – 4:00 (<https://lcps.zoom.us/j/98930128901?pwd=VnQ2NTAveHdNRElCVEg0V2RjK1lKZz09>)