

Canvas

Learning Management System

What you need to know



What is an LMS?

Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) is educational software. Teachers are able to use an LMS to create interactive content for students that is tied to the curriculum. In addition, the LMS is used to assess student learning and to cultivate greater collaboration in the classroom and between home and school. You will hear the LMS simply called “Canvas” throughout the school district.

Why do we need an LMS?

To create a consistent way to interact with students and parents

- Easily embed multimedia into your course
- Incorporate interactive content
- Provide immediate feedback to students
- Enrich classroom discussions

How did we select Canvas?

A committee of elementary, middle, and high school teachers selected Canvas as the LMS for Great Valley School District. The committee met three times during the 2015-2016 school year.

Meeting 1: Establish criteria for evaluating available Learning Management Systems.

Meeting 2: Heard vendor presentations

Meeting 3: Reviewed LMS finalists and made a recommendation

Why did we select Canvas?

The finalists were Canvas and Schoology. The Committee selected Canvas because it offered:

- the ability to embed media easily
- speed grading
- more tools for higher level classes
- more accessibility tools
- an interface that students are more likely to see in higher education (i.e. Penn State University, University of Pennsylvania, Carnegie Mellon)

FAQs

Will Canvas replace Skyward?

No. Parents will still see their students’ grades in Skyward.

Are all teachers required to create content on Canvas?

Only teachers that are participating in the One to One initiative will be required to create content.

Can teachers who are not currently part of the one-to-one implementation begin building their Canvas site now?

As a part of the curriculum revision process and professional development, teachers will be able to use a “blueprint” in Canvas that will allow them to create content. This content will be reviewed and go live as part of the one to one implementation plan.

Will Canvas replace Moodle?

Yes. A migration tool helps us to transfer content from Moodle to Canvas. Eventually, all Moodle content will move to Canvas.

Will Canvas replace Schoolwires?

No. Schoolwires is the host for our District and school websites, including our teacher webpages. Every teacher will continue to have a presence on our Schoolwires website. However, teachers may choose to move the educational content of their websites to Canvas (and will provide a link to their Canvas site from the Schoolwires website).