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2022-2023

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Schoology Plain and Simple for Daily Instruction

Schoology Plain and Simple for Daily Instruction

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Goals and Objectives

The source of my idea came from the need to help teachers and students with our district's new Learning Management System (LMS) adopted last year (2021), Schoology. While Schoology has been available to educators for the 2021-2022 school year, statistical data provided from our district's PowerBI for Schoology usage indicates that **only** a handful of schools are consistently utilizing Schoology.

Beginning the 2022-2023 school year, Schoology will be the place for educators to use for their daily instructional routines. Schoology allows teachers, students, and parents access to course materials anytime, anywhere they have an internet connection whether in the brick-and-mortar classroom, or at home. It has been categorized as one of the best LMS systems, especially for K-12 and third-party integration. This means that whatever resource you currently use, will most likely be available within Schoology.

Having been part of the original team of instructors tasked to provide the Schoology 101 and 102 professional development sessions for instructors, has given me insights on the major obstacles posed by educators and the means of assisting them to overcome those challenges. Helping teacher one step at a time starting with simple tasks and then helping them understand that they are not going to be doing anything different in terms of content has usually eased their apprehension when learning Schoology. In helping thousands of teachers, I have gained valuable knowledge as to how best overcome their feeling about starting something new and out of their comfort zone. The only thing needed is an open mind and willingness to try something new which will eventually make their lives easier and give back more of their free time by working smarter not harder.

Florida Computer Science Standards

SC.K2.CS-CS.3.2 - Create, review, and revise artifacts that include text, images, and audio using digital tools.

SC.35.CS-CC.1.1 - Identify technology tools for individual and collaborative data collection, writing, communication, and publishing activities.

SC.35.CS-PC.2.1 Explain how computers and computing devices are used to communicate with others on a daily basis.

SC.68.CS-CC.1.1 - Demonstrate an ability to communicate appropriately through various online tools.

SC.912.CS-CC.1.1 - Evaluate modes of communication and collaboration.

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a global disruption in so many areas of our daily lives. From our health, financial, educational, and even how we communicate, COVID-19 seems to have turned our world upside down. No one could have imaged the devastation that this pandemic has caused. Yet, within Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), we are lucky to have leaders such as District Director, Dr. Leonid Rabinovich, who advocated for a district wide Learning Management System (LMS) years before the pandemic hit. Unfortunately, it took COVID-19 to convince the 4th largest district in the United States and M-DCPS School Board Members to see the importance of having a secure LMS. Nevertheless, it is here now and ready to be taken full speed ahead by our amazing educators.

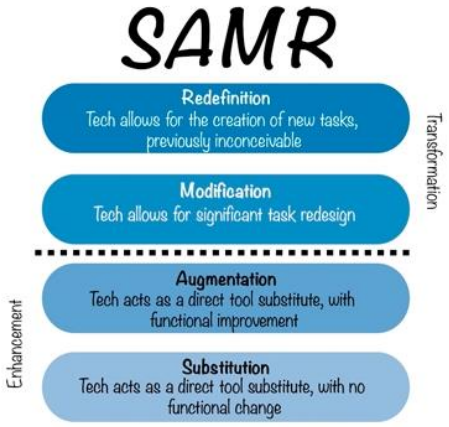
Even though COVID-19 has been devasting globally, it has caused us to take a look at technology with a whole different perspective in our lives. This is not a bad thing. As a matter of fact, infusing the classroom with modern technology whether its brick and mortar or virtual, is essential in addressing today's student needs (Wichlinski, 2017). According to Wichlinski (2017) "by integrating these methods into our current system (of instruction), we can better prepare students for the real world." These words become even more evident after the pandemic. Being able to keep students engaged in meaningful lessons whether in the classroom or at home is a priority in case something else comes to disrupt our educational system again. Having an LMS such as Schoology will mean students can keep learning from anywhere there is internet.

Course Outline and Overview

If Covid-19 has taught us anything in terms of education, is that learning must still go on whether in the brick-and-mortar classroom or online. Having Schoology as our LMS, means parents need to only go to one place to get their student's classwork, assignments, assessments, and communication from their teachers. And teachers can still use all their additional resources to support their individual students' needs. Better understanding of how Schoology works will impact the overall educational experience for all stakeholders.

As educators, we not only have the power to impact what happens in our classroom, but our students' future. Think back when you were in grade school. Does any teacher stand out by having made a positive impact in your life? Was there a teacher who inspired you to take your future career path? Did any of your teachers prepare you for college? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then you are blessed, and now have the same ability to do the same for your students. Schoology assists educators by empowering students from anywhere they have internet access, to remain connected with their teacher and classmates. Our schools are no longer an isolated place of learning, they are blended learning opportunities for continued academic growth and success.

Schoology gives every teacher the power to engage students with the 4 Cs in education: critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication. It provides teachers the opportunity to elevate their lesson planning, instruction, student engagement, assessment, student analytics, and communication with Dr. Ruben Puentedura's SAMR model of technology integration.



Adapted from Dr. Ruben Puentedura's SAMR Model (2006)

Schoology Course Materials Icons

Assignments

Use Assignments to collect, view and grade student submissions. Add comments and annotations to student submissions.

Assessments

Create assessments in your Schoology course to assess your students' grasp of the material or evaluate their preparedness for class. Each assessment is automatically graded (unless you've included a subjective question), providing you with instant and powerful feedback that can help guide your upcoming lesson plans.

Files

Upload files stored on your computer or drive directly to your course Materials page.

Links

Add a link to your Materials page to create a central location for the webpages for online reading, videos and tools you use in class.

External Tools

External or LTI (Learning Tools Interoperability) Tools enable your web-based resources to be accessed and viewed within Schoology.

Lock

Lock an assignment to prevent submissions to the item.

Discussions

Create a discussion to enable your students to interact with each other and discuss the material while evaluating their participation. Students add threaded comments, reply to one another, and Like their peers' posts.

Pages

Create a custom Page to add text, images, videos, and HTML to present information to your students. Each page has a Rich Text Editor that enables you to customize font styles, colors, indentations, and other options.

Media Albums

Create albums to organize and share photos, videos, and/or audio files or your course.

Folders

Create folders to organize your course content.

Question Banks for Test/Quiz

Use Question Banks to create a repository of test questions that you can then use within Tests/Quizzes. You can create question banks in Personal and Group Resources.

Items Banks for Course Assessment

Use Item Banks to create a repository of assessment questions that you can then use within Course Assessments. You can create item banks in Personal and Group Resources.

Display on a New Page/ Display Inline

Disable this for your material to display on a new page or enable it for the item to display inline on your course Materials page.

Align with a Learning Objective

Click the blue target to align the material with a custom or standardized learning objective to track students' progress in the Mastery gradebook.

Individually Assign

Assign an item to a specific student or grading group.

Add a Rubric

Add a rubric to measure student performance against multiple criteria.

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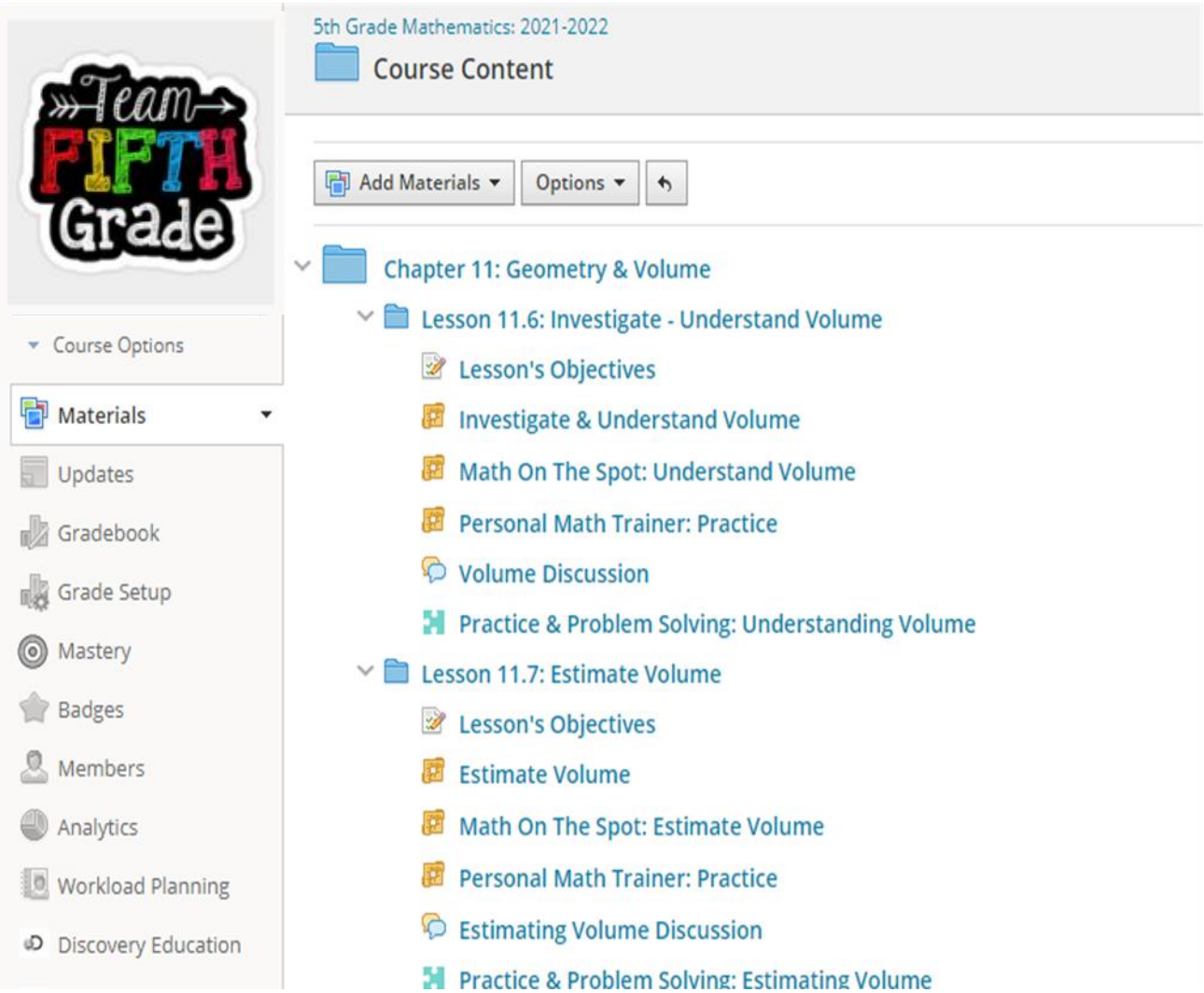
Sample 5th Grade Math Content Lesson within Schoology

Join Group Access Code: WFZC-XV87-BN2ZX



Resource List and Internet Site

- Our M-DCPS LMS web page created by our district and constantly being updated with an assortment of Schoology information including Schoology Tutorials for instructors, students, and administrators
- YouTube Schoology Channel from learning the basics to how to create assessments. Here is a link to one of their playlist for Schoology QuickStart Tutorials. There are many more.
- M-DCPS Schoology How to Guides with over 135 pages of content to help teachers with their Schoology questions. Simply go to the Table of Contents to quickly find the information you need help with.
- Links to Resources in Schoology's Curriculum Resources Group:
    - Link for **Pacing Guides**: https://dadeschools.schoology.com/resources/group#/resources/group/5123593021
    - Link for Schoology **Student Self-Paced Course**: https://dadeschools.schoology.com/resources/group#/resources/group/5123593021?f=237485501
    - Link for Schoology **Instructor Self-Paced** modules, recordings, and guides: https://dadeschools.schoology.com/resources/group#/resources/group/5123593021?f=237485547

References

Puentedura, R. (2006). *Transformation, Technology, and Education.* Retrieved August 13, 2022, from http://hippasus.com/resources/tte/puentedura_tte.pdf

Wichlinski, K. (2017). *Technology in Schools: Why It's a Good Idea.* Retrieved August 6, 2022, from https://medium.com/@kwichlinski001/technology-in-schools-why-its-a-good-idea-53cad5e074a8