CREATING COMMUNITY IN ONLINE CLASSROOMS
ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description

The goal of this course is to empower educators to build classroom community, implement effective communication strategies, and facilitate collaboration in an online learning environment. The course is divided into four modules, each focused on the following questions:

- **ESTABLISHING MODES OF COMMUNICATION:** How can I effectively communicate with students and families in an online learning environment? What communication methods and tools help facilitate online communication, and how can I prioritize student and teacher well-being online?
- **BUILDING A POSITIVE LEARNING COMMUNITY ONLINE:** How can I establish and maintain a positive classroom community in an online learning environment? How can I establish behavior guidelines and community expectations, what methods and tools help facilitate community-building, and how can I address social-emotional learning?
- **FOSTERING STUDENT COLLABORATION:** How can I empower learners and facilitate collaboration in a blended or online learning environment? Why is collaborative learning important, when does it happen, and how does technology make it happen?
- **FUN AND PERSONALIZATION IN ONLINE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS:** What makes my classroom unique? How can I incorporate my own style into an online learning environment? What methods and tools help facilitate fun and personalization online?

Course Structure

This course consists of four modules. Each module includes a mix of activities and interactive lessons. Activities include discussion boards, exercises to increase understanding, and planning templates to help implement content learned within context. Lessons also include example activities and lesson plans, along with videos from K-12 educators sharing their experiences. A final quiz helps you demonstrate knowledge of concepts learned within the course.

Course Goals and Outcomes

By the end of this course, the goal is that you will be able to successfully manage an online learning environment including effective communication, building positive community, fostering collaboration, and adding personalization.

Participant Profile

This course is designed for all K-12 educators seeking to create community within a blended or online learning environment.

ISTE Standards and Competencies

This course is designed and developed around the ISTE Standards, with a strong emphasis on the ISTE Standards for Educators and the ISTE Standards for Students.

Module Descriptions

MODULE 1: ESTABLISHING MODES OF COMMUNICATION

In this module, you can explore different methods for communicating and reflect on the advantages and disadvantages of each method. You can explore tools for communication, equity and access, and begin to create a communication plan.

MODULE 2: BUILDING A POSITIVE LEARNING COMMUNITY ONLINE

In this module, you can explore different methods for establishing a positive learning community online, how to establish behavioral expectations and community guidelines, and begin to create a plan for your own classroom. You can explore tools for building community, including activities related to social-emotional learning.

MODULE 3: FOSTERING STUDENT COLLABORATION

In this module, you can explore the benefits of collaborative learning, learn the when and how of student collaboration, and examine ways to increase collaboration within existing lesson plans.

MODULE 4: FUN AND PERSONALIZATION IN ONLINE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

In this module, you can explore ways to add some fun and humor into an online learning environment, including topics like avatars, emojis, memes, and social media.

Completion Criteria

To receive the certificate of completion, you must score at least an 80% on the final quiz.

Disclaimers

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NOTE: A variety of applications are highlighted throughout this course. Prior to using any of them with students, it is imperative that participants check the account requirements for each application against their school/district student data privacy policy to insure the application complies with district policy. In addition, some applications' Terms of Service may require

parental permission to be COPPA and FERPA compliant for students younger than 13 years of age.

Content in this course is subject to change at instructor's or ISTE's discretion.