

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

DISTANCE LEARNING PLAYBOOK

Lenovo knows 2020 has been a challenging year for educators, students, and communities. This playbook is designed to highlight partnerships we're building to help you manage the uncertainty ahead. In this playbook, you'll learn:

- Critical remote classroom management features to consider
- Insights for how educational stakeholders should evaluate new tools
- Details on how LanSchool's software delivers seamless remote classroom management for today's digital learning

 LANSCHOOL

Smarter
technology
for all

Lenovo

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Research shows that classroom management is a primary concern to teachers at every grade level. The skills for effectively engaging and communicating with each student in a diverse classroom can take years to master. But the payoff in increased engagement and better student outcomes makes the effort well worth it.

Yet, when more technology is used to teach, the challenges of classroom management have multiplied. Now, teachers have to keep students engaged and on track while they have the internet at their fingertips. Growing online class sizes and infinite digital distractions are adding even more chaos to the learning space.

MANAGING ATTENTION AND ENGAGEMENT AT A DISTANCE

With the onset of the pandemic in early 2020, teachers had to adapt their approaches to classroom management literally overnight. No longer could they intervene quietly with a struggling student or observe and intuit how a concept was being absorbed by the class. Instead, the very basics of communication became a struggle for many teachers and schools. Though challenges remain, many schools used the summer months to prepare for the fall semester, extensively planning and making investments into new technology to help. For these educators, the underlying issues that are expected to continue include:

- Students logging in with various degrees of connectivity and many at-home distractions.
- 44% of teachers cite instructional continuity as a key challenge¹. Coursework and content must shift fluidly between synchronous and asynchronous models based on circumstance so that students' learning is not impacted by fully remote or hybrid learning.
- Teachers and IT departments are managing an explosion of new digital tools and devices. 87% say they are spending more time managing technology now², which leaves less time for engaging with students.

Each disruption is a missed opportunity, with both the student and teacher taken off course. Recent events have offered a tough lesson in the unexpected. Administrators and IT staff are feeling it too.

Source:

¹Education Week Research Center, June 2020

²How COVID-19 Is Shaping Tech Use. What That Means When Schools Reopen. EdWeek, 2020. Web.

“When LanSchool Air came out, I felt it was revolutionary because it allowed that seamless integration with Google Classroom and with Chromebooks. And it really solved a lot of the headaches.”

— Chris Parker, Technology Coordinator/Help Desk Supervisor, Gateway Regional School System

IN A YEAR OF CHANGE — EXPECTATIONS ARE STILL ON THE RISE

The nearly universal pivot to remote learning this past spring has had both an immediate and long-term impact across all levels of our educational system. For the past eight months, schools have been struggling to provision devices, set up internet access, and invest in and train teachers on new tools — all while adapting to evolving expectations from the community and education agencies.

Managing a digital classroom is hard enough in a normal year when learning happens in the classroom. Many of the same classroom management issues that happen when learning in person have quickly escalated in remote learning environments. Teaching new concepts to students when you can't physically see or hear is just the start of it. For teachers, there is the added complication of keeping learners engaged within a remote classroom.

Specific challenges include:

- Maintaining some sense of instructional continuity as students change environments, learn new tools, and face unique digital learning challenges.
- Retaining classroom cohesion, moving between 1:1 and 1-to-many interactions with students.
- Intervening when students are disengaged, off-task, or need extra learning instruction.
- Guiding student focus by monitoring what is on their screen and reminding them of acceptable classroom practices.

Although new tools can help teachers meet these challenges, many schools already have a full tech toolbox. Deploying new tools may simply add to the burdens on teachers, IT staff, and administrators. So when evaluating software, these stakeholders must consider:

- How will the tools be deployed and users trained?
- What will be the impact on IT staff? Will a new tool increase their workload?
- How will stakeholders monitor usage after the tools are deployed?

Classroom management platforms must enable teachers to do what they are already so good at: connecting with their students to build stronger engagement and better outcomes. This means solutions must have robust functionality for both teachers and learners, giving both parties control over communications, minimizing disruptions, and enabling collaboration. Additionally, the management platform needs to be flexible enough to easily scale up to accommodate large class sizes across multiple classrooms, teachers, and schools.



INSIDE A BUSY LANSCHOOL CLASSROOM

For decades, educators have turned to LanSchool for their digital classroom management needs. Now LanSchool Air, the cloud-based version of the LanSchool Classic locally hosted software, can help solve the new challenges of distance learning. In fact, LanSchool Air provides the same instructional continuity and functionality as LanSchool Classic but with all the additional benefits of the cloud. These benefits include easy scalability and flexibility, reduced deployment time, seamless upgrades, simplified maintenance, and of course, the ability to teach from virtually anywhere.

LanSchool Air's full suite of versatile monitoring, communication, and device management tools are all designed with one goal in mind - to keep students engaged while learning digitally. For example, many teachers use the "chat" messaging or "raise hand" features to accomplish this daunting task. They find the privacy of these communication channels especially helps shy students feel more comfortable asking questions during lessons. In addition, teachers often "push websites" to each classroom computer to get the class on the same page quickly. This helps keep students engaged with learning, rather than typing in URLs (something K-3 students might not even be able to do).



"It's as close as I think we can get to having that 1:1 environment with students. When the teacher is working with a student 1:1 using LanSchool, the student is thinking 'OK, she's focused on me and not on 20 other kids.'"

— Rachel Millin, Teacher, Gateway Regional School System

LanSchool Functionality



ENGAGE AND COLLABORATE

- Messaging (1:1, 1-to-many)
- Raise hand
- Share screen



MONITOR AND GUIDE

- Thumbnail and full-screen monitoring
- Blank screen
- Push website
- Limit web browsing
- Snapshot (capture device screen)
- Battery status

PURPOSE-BUILT FOR DAYS LIKE THESE

LanSchool was designed to give teachers the ability to deliver a consistent classroom experience where human instruction is complemented — not complicated — by technology. It's intuitively designed and integration-focused, easily working with the tools you're already using.

From a students' perspective, they have a reliable set of tools for engaging and interacting with their teachers, as well as a clear understanding of how the classroom will be managed — reducing their confusion, frustration, and anxiety. With LanSchool, students get the much-needed confidence in their remote learning environments and fewer interruptions to their attention and learning.



IT BENEFITS

Digital classrooms are only as successful as their weakest infrastructure layer. Most notably, this challenge has been seen with connectivity, revealing big (sometimes surprising) gaps in equitable access across our communities. But even with sufficient hardware and internet access to keep students connected, the final classroom orchestration piece is vital to making all other investments effective.

IT departments have other goals in addition to supporting teachers and students. They are looking for ways to optimize the cost of delivering instructional technology, especially as it relates to remote education. They need solutions that are simple to use and scale. They also must operate inside a compliance framework, which requires them to protect student information and privacy.

LanSchool is designed to meet these requirements with:

- Flexible deployment options that let schools install and manage the solution (LanSchool Classic) or deploy via the cloud (LanSchool Air).
- Simple integration to help ensure more time is spent on teaching versus on managing tools.
- Easy onboarding and provisioning of new users.
- Powerful reporting that delivers faster compliance and deeper insights.
- Online safety partnerships to help schools keep students safe in remote learning environments, protecting against cyberbullying, etc.

“Honestly, of all the things I’ve rolled out to teachers and staff, LanSchool has been the easiest.”

— Chris Parker, Technology Coordinator/Help Desk Supervisor, Gateway Regional School System



BUILDING POWERFUL DIGITAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

As decision-makers reflect on the lessons learned in 2020, the need for flexibility will probably rank near the top for most. Many had carefully planned technology roadmaps suddenly filled with major detours. Promising pilot plans became recipes for modernization overnight, and then the struggle became implementing these plans quickly and effectively.

Digital learning is always evolving, as innovations in educational technology continuously bring dynamic new opportunities to the classroom. But some things must remain unchanged. Teachers must be empowered to manage their classrooms, guide learning, and support student engagement. And they deserve tools that are specifically built for these tasks.

LanSchool has been an edtech software leader for over 30 years and is a critical part of Lenovo's Worldwide Education solution. The knowledge gained over these three decades combined with a commitment to maximizing learning opportunities through innovation has created an industry-leading digital classroom management solution. The multilayered strategies needed to make digital learning succeed are incorporated into the design process from the beginning — resulting in comprehensive solutions that deliver better student outcomes. With LanSchool, educators can inspire developing minds in an evolving digital classroom.

For more information on LanSchool,
visit www.lanschool.com