

# Your Learning Management System as a Digital Ecosystem

## What is a digital ecosystem and how does it relate to a learning management system?

Educators are hired into an ecosystem that is an intricate network of living (students, teachers, school leaders, and parents) and non-living (digital systems, curricula, resources, and facilities) organisms. The purpose of a learning management system is to use digital tools to make stronger and more meaningful connections within the teaching and learning ecosystem.

Keep reading to learn how teachers, administrators, students, and parents can interact with each other using a learning management system, resulting in a more engaging and personalized education experience.

## LEARNING

Teachers want to pursue their professional development when they have the time and energy to focus on course content. They prefer learning in the comfort of their own homes and want instruction delivered to them in short segments using video as the predominant mode of delivery. An LMS gives them the freedom and flexibility to learn in the ways that best meet their physical and learning needs.

Similarly, students appreciate the freedom and flexibility a learning platform affords them. Technology provides the innovative tools they need to work creatively and collaboratively on learning tasks and projects both within their school community and outside the walls of their school.

### HOW TEACHERS USE AN LMS TO LEARN

- Create, update, and track progress on their professional learning plan
- Maintain professional teaching certificates and licenses
- Take online courses to increase professional knowledge
- Access staff onboarding and support materials
- Share proven lessons, assessments, assignments, resources, and materials for use within their professional learning community and beyond
- Download and share high interest, engaging lessons, assessments, assignments, resources and materials from colleagues they know and trust



### HOW STUDENTS USE AN LMS TO LEARN

- Engage with interesting, embedded digital content (e.g. YouTube, Google Docs, Khan Academy, Quizlet and BrainPop)
- Collaborate on assignments to learn with their peers
- Participate in a student learning community where their thoughts and ideas are sought after and valued
- Monitor their progress toward academic goals



### HOW PARENTS USE AN LMS TO LEARN

- Stay informed about school news and events
- Engage with their students' teachers and other school staff
- Take advantage of learning resources and materials geared toward parents



### HOW DISTRICT & SCHOOL LEADERS USE AN LMS TO LEARN

- Identify students at risk of failure
- Disaggregate and analyze student performance data and disseminate it to staff members quickly and efficiently
- Gain insight into classroom instruction from digitally shared grade-level or course unit plans, assessments, and lessons

## MANAGEMENT

In order to keep schools functioning smoothly, districts need a technology system to ensure that everyone in the school community—students, teachers, administrators, and parents—have the information they need to be successful, when they need it.

### HOW STUDENTS MANAGE THEIR LEARNING USING AN LMS

- Download course content
- Access and submit assignments (video, audio, and text files)
- Work on documents simultaneously with their project partner(s)
- Provide their opinions and factual knowledge in group discussions
- Build a portfolio of achievements by collecting and sharing work artifacts
- Take assessments
- Gain feedback from teachers and peers on assignments
- Gather input and ideas through digital collaborative learning opportunities

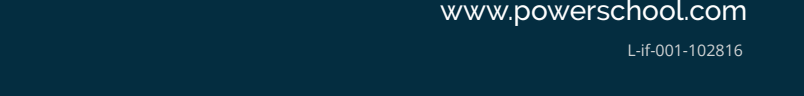
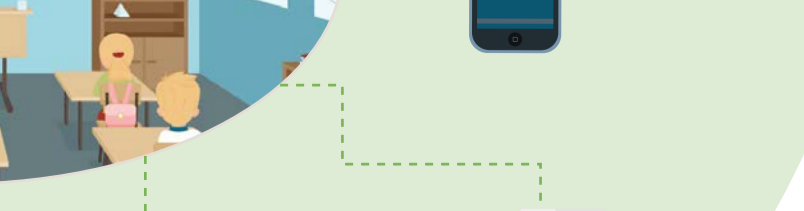
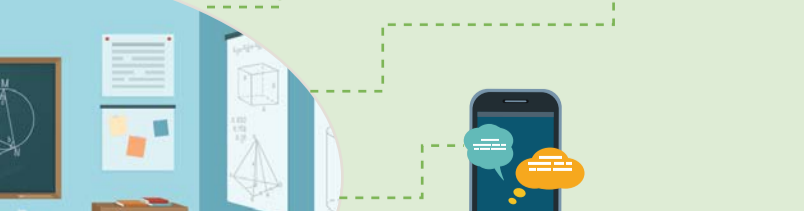
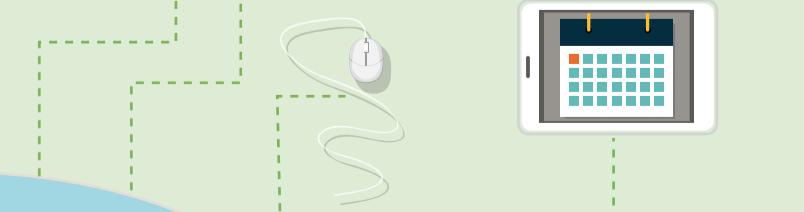
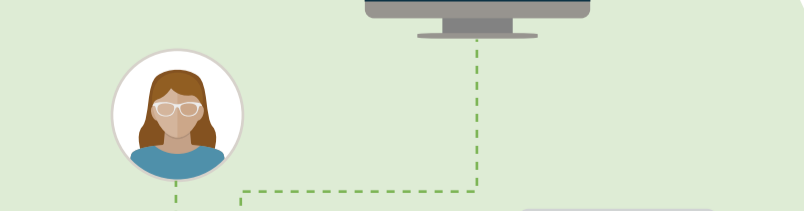
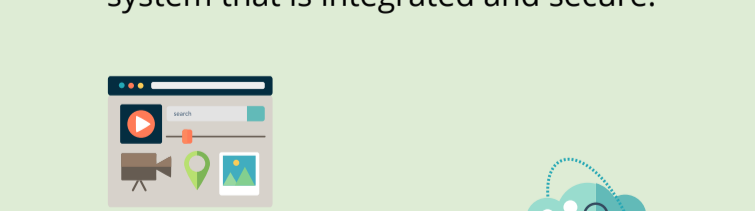
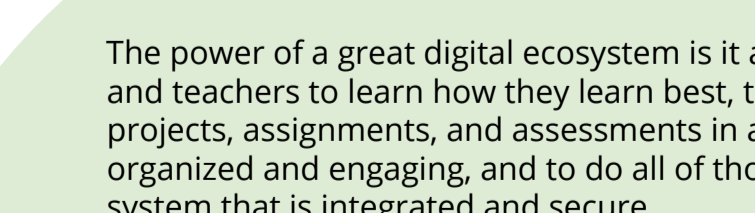
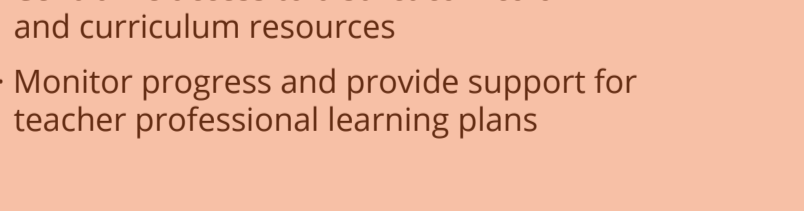
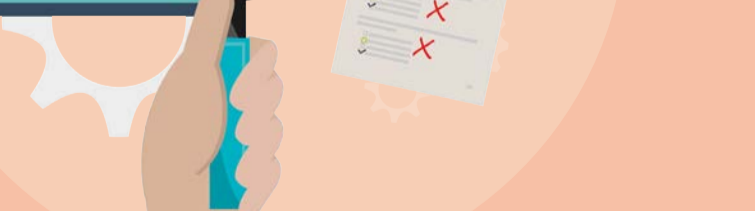
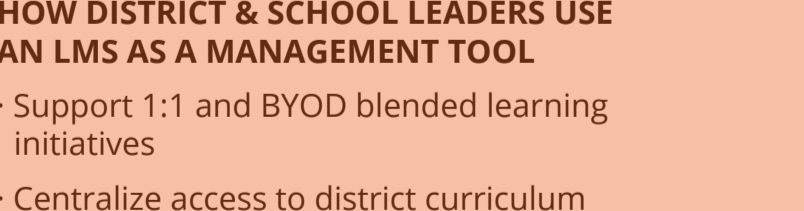
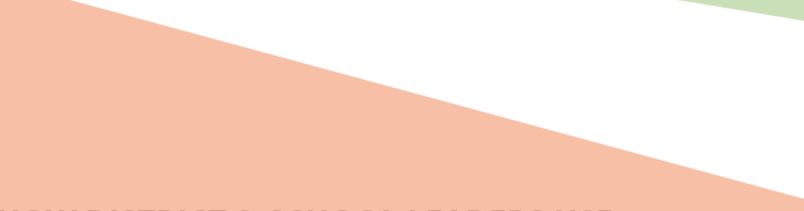
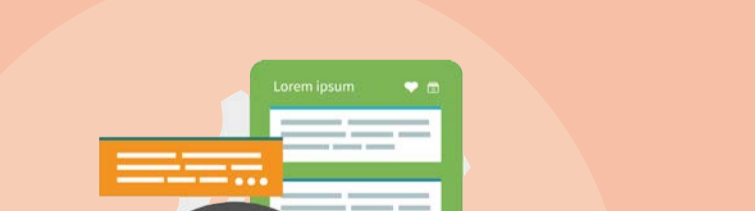
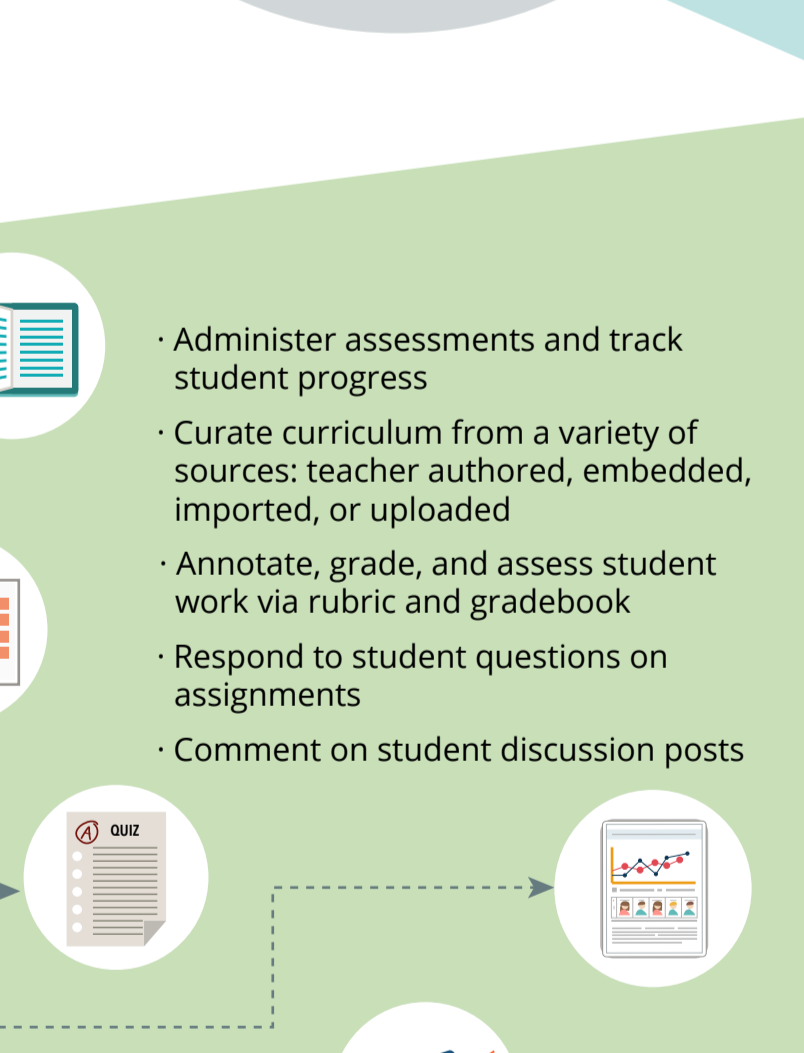
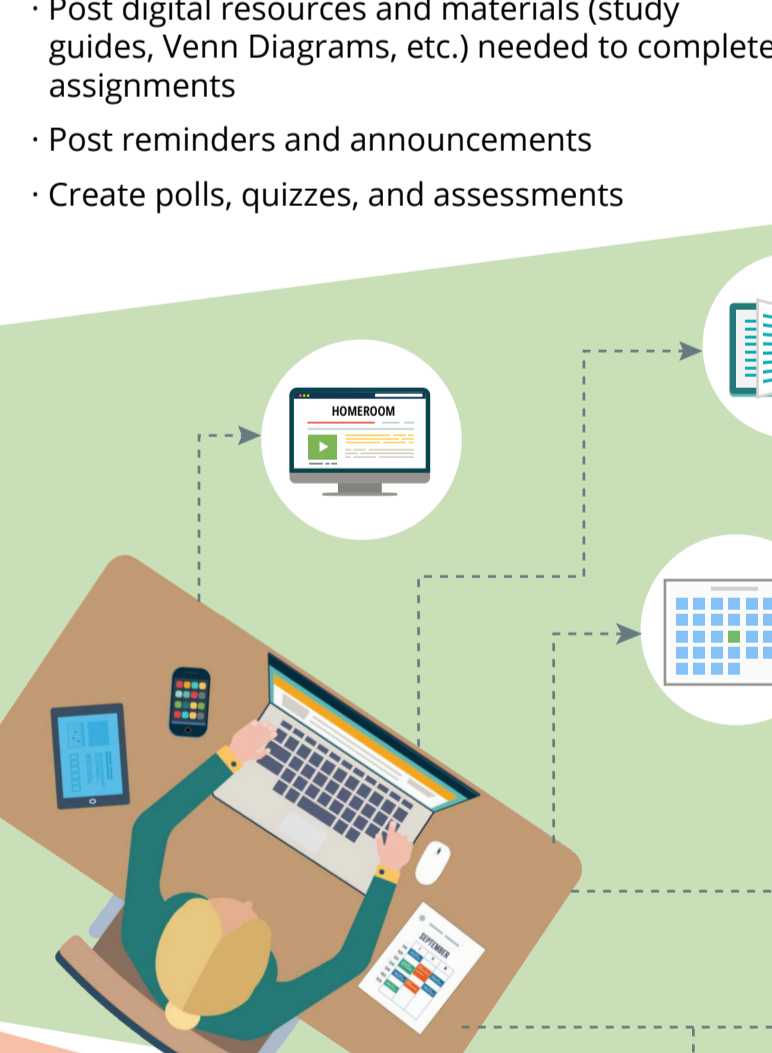


### HOW TEACHERS USE AN LMS TO MANAGE THEIR CLASSROOM

- Design, create and publish a web page for each class
- Publish class content and collect student work on class web pages
- Post assignments for specific students or groups of students
- Post digital resources and materials (study guides, Venn Diagrams, etc.) needed to complete assignments
- Post reminders and announcements
- Create polls, quizzes, and assessments

### HOW DISTRICT & SCHOOL LEADERS USE AN LMS AS A MANAGEMENT TOOL

- Administer assessments and track student progress
- Curate curriculum from a variety of sources: teacher authored, embedded, imported, or uploaded
- Annotate, grade, and assess student work via rubric and gradebook
- Respond to student questions on assignments
- Comment on student discussion posts



## "ECO" SYSTEM

The power of a great digital ecosystem is it allows students and teachers to learn how they learn best, to manage their projects, assignments, and assessments in a way that is organized and engaging, and to do all of those things in a system that is integrated and secure.

