EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IN D2L

ETSU Academic Technology Services

Online courses can feel impersonal. Luckily, D2L offers several communication tools to help build rapport and stay in touch with your students throughout the semester.

NEWS

News items appear on the Course Home page and are the first thing students see when they visit your course. The News tool can be used to provide updates to students about deadlines, schedule changes, or interesting supplemental information like current events or media links.

DISCUSSION BOARDS

Effective discussions encourage conversation on a subject; are open-ended and stimulate critical thinking; and do not have one right answer. Instructors can interact with discussions by:asking follow-up questions and providing relevant resources.

FEEDBACK

Grading assignments in a timely manner and providing specific, constructive feedback to students is an important aspect of teaching online. It also serves to increase instructor presence in an online course and develop rapport with your students.

EMAIL, CHAT, & PAGER

Messages sent through the Email tool will go to the student's ETSU email account and they will see a notification when they log in to D2L. Chat and Pager allow you to message students in real time.

GROUPS

The Groups tool is an excellent way to allow students to collaborate. You can use groups to mediate discussion boards, organize collaborative dropbox folders, and create assignment and project sign-ups. Students can belong to multiple groups within the same course.

COMMUNITY

It is up to you, as an online instructor, to facilitate community in your online course. By welcoming different opinions, creating opportunities for interaction, providing good feedback, and using original materials to establish presence, students to feel as if their opinions are welcomed, their ideas are appreciated, and that you are invested in their learning experience in the course.

WHERE TO FIND IT