



SqoolTools and..... Your Own Virtual Classroom

What is SqoolTools?

- SqoolTools is a free, hosted site which allows you to create your own virtual classroom and use it for all the things that you use a classroom website to do:
 - assign homework
 - make classroom announcements
 - provide online resources
 - post lesson plans
 - post worksheets, PowerPoints, videos, etc.
 - calendars, etc.
- In addition, engage your students in the learning process with Web 2.0 tools such as blogs, wikis, discussion boards, chat, and podcasting all within a secure social learning environment, which can be accessed as a secure login link from your district site.



Web 2.0

What does that mean?

This term generally refers to the transition from a collection of websites to a “read-write web” in which users are no longer just reading the content provided on websites but are often creating content for others. Interaction with others is a main key. The web experience suddenly becomes more active than passive.



How Does SqoolTools Benefit Me?

SqoolTools Helps Teachers:

- To easily customize a virtual classroom for students – even those with limited technology skills
- Become more efficient
- Become even better teachers
- Provide info and activities to students and parents 24/7
- Automatically grade objective items and post into a gradebook
- Work collaboratively in Professional Learning Communities in an online environment



How Does SqoolTools Benefit Students?

Today's students are digital learners who are best engaged by using technology in a social community.

- Students genuinely enjoy learning with SqoolTools.
- SqoolTools allows students to learn anytime and any place.
- Students have access to the same resources and activities that are used at school.
- The Web 2.0 tools allow students to create learning artifacts for an audience of peers.
- Students benefit through differentiated learning strategies embedded in SqoolTools.



How Does SqoolTools Benefit Parents?

- A window into their child's classroom
- Keeps parents informed
- Assists in fostering partnership between home and school



How Does SqoolTools Benefit My District?

- There is no software to install and no servers to maintain when using SqoolTools.
- No time commitment needed from district technology staff.
- Teachers, schools, and districts can use free SqoolTools accounts with no impact on school budgets.
- Districts can purchase services for customized, no advertising accounts.



Is SqoolTools Difficult or Time Consuming to Learn?

NO....

Once you understand the basic editing tools, you can quickly build your first virtual classroom. Easy to follow training videos and written user guides are provided for every tool in SqoolTools.



Can I Use my Existing Instructional Content?

YES....

Virtually any file type (images, PowerPoint, Flash, Shockwave, Word Processing documents, Spreadsheets, etc.) can be integrated into your SqoolTools virtual classroom. This allows existing content and resources to be utilized saving you time.



One Teacher's Story

http://www.teachertube.com/view_video.php?viewkey=298309a3fda7d7d00111

Listen to one teacher, Molly Tipton from El Paso, as she shares her Moodle teaching experience and answers questions that many beginning VLE users have.



I Only Have One Computer. Is SqoolTools Worth Using?

Yes...

- Your students and parents will have access from home.
- The SqoolTools suite of tools will make you a more efficient teacher.
- Many of the tools will assist you with classroom management tasks.
- A SqoolTools account provides a secure way to provide information to parents and learning activities for students 24 hours and day, 7 days a week.
- If you have only a few computers, it is likely that you have a schedule in place to provide for equitable access for all of your students. A SqoolTools account will make the most of the time your students have on the computer.



How Long Will My Account Stay Active?

Free SqoolTools accounts will be active as long as they are being utilized. Accounts will NEVER be disabled due to summer vacation. Accounts will be considered “inactive” when SqoolTools staff is unable to contact the account holder, using the email address of record, for 10 days.



I Need Step-by-Step Help. Where Would I Find It?

Everything you'll need to get started can be found on the Teacher Information Page. Just click on the link at the top of the SqoolTools page:

- Printable Teacher's Guide
- Quick Start Videos
- Support FAQs
- User Guides
- Need more help? Email the SqoolTechs Team (admin@sqooltechs.com) and receive a response with 24 hours... usually much sooner!



I Need an Easy Way to Enroll My Students

SqoolTools has two easy ways to enroll students:

- You do it manually
- SqoolTools will do it for you!

You can choose a generic password and they can change it on first login or you can assign them the passwords they normally use.

An Excel Spreadsheet is provided if you want SqoolTools to enroll your students.



I Can't Wait to Get Started! What Do I Need to Do?

This is a two-step process.

1. You must first create an account with SqoolTools. You can create an account yourself, or your trainer might have already registered you.
 - If your trainer registered you, use the username and password that you are given.
 - If you register yourself, go to: <http://sqooltools.com> and follow the directions for creating an account.



I Can't Wait to Get Started With My Own Virtual Classroom!

- If you have registered yourself, you will soon receive a confirmation email. If you were registered by your trainer, you are good to login.
2. You are now ready to request a virtual classroom – you can have as many virtual classrooms as you want.
- If you are not already logged onto SqoolTools.com, please do so.
 - On the front page, click on the “Request a Virtual Classroom” link.
 - Follow Directions there.
 - You will receive email verification of your classroom’s approval. After that time, you can logon to Sqooltools and access your virtual classroom. You will be presented with an empty course shell which you can begin to set up.



Welcome to Web 2.0!

- See the Teacher Help area for information about setting up your virtual classroom!
- Be sure to access the QuickStart Videos found on the Teacher Information link.
- Good luck and have fun!



This presentation was prepared by Sharon Sumner of the Sullivan School District. Sharon has graciously granted permission for trainers to edit the presentation in order to meet the needs of those being trained.