

January 28, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to inform you that, starting in the second semester of this school year, our secondary schools will begin using Canvas as our official Learning Management System (LMS). This platform will serve as a central hub for students' coursework, assignments, grades, and communication with teachers. We believe Canvas will significantly enhance the learning experience and we want to ensure you understand how it works, the benefits for students, and how you can be involved. Teachers will be migrating classrooms from Google Classroom to Canvas over the course of the second semester.

### **What is Canvas?**

Canvas is a powerful and user-friendly digital tool designed to streamline the educational process. It allows students to access all of their class materials in one place, track their progress, submit assignments, participate in discussions, and stay up-to-date with upcoming assessments and deadlines. Teachers will also be able to use Canvas to provide feedback, share resources, and communicate directly with students.

### **Benefits of Canvas:**

- **Centralized Learning:** Students will have easy access to their assignments, grades, and class materials, all in one place.
- **Improved Organization:** Canvas helps students stay on top of their work by providing a clear view of upcoming deadlines and tasks.
- **Enhanced Communication:** Teachers and students can interact more effectively, whether through messages, discussions, or announcements. Canvas can be accessed via an App on any smartphone.
- **Parent Observers:** Parents can set up a Canvas account to monitor their child's progress and be notified of upcoming assignments and grades.
- **Aligned to all Washington State Colleges and Universities:** Canvas is the LMS used by all Washington state colleges and universities. Students interacting with Canvas in the 6-12 grades will have a continuity in experiences when they move on to post-secondary education.

### **Timeline of Implementation**

MVSD Teachers have been provided training opportunities over the course of the first semester and many teachers are already familiar with and integrating Canvas into their daily classrooms. For the second semester, 2025, teachers will have three or more courses in Canvas. For Fall of 2025, all secondary classes will be available in Canvas. While we work through the transition, please continue to access student grades and assignments through Skyward.

## How Parents Can Get Involved:

We strongly encourage you to take an active role in supporting your child's learning by becoming a "Canvas Observer." This feature allows parents to track their child's assignments, due dates, and grades.

Your Canvas Parent account will be created automatically and linked to your student(s) using the email address you have registered in Skyward. Once the account is created you'll receive an email with instructions to reset your password and log in for the first time.

Follow the steps below to get started:

### Step 1: Check Your Email

1. Once your account is created, you'll receive an email from the District at the email address you have registered in Skyward.
2. The email will include a link to reset your password. Click the link and create a new password.
3. If you don't see the email, check your spam/junk folder.

### Step 2: Reset Your Password

1. Go to the Canvas login page: <https://mvsd.instructure.com/login/canvas>
2. On the login page, click **Forgot Password?** below the login area.
3. Enter your email address (the one registered in Skyward) and click **Request Password**.
4. Check your email inbox for a message from Canvas with a password reset link. (If you don't see it, check your spam/junk folder.)
5. Click the link in the email and create a new password.

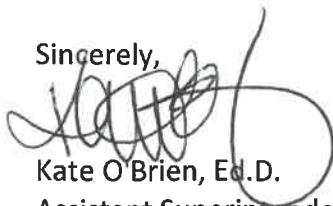
### Step 3: Log In to Your Account

1. Return to Canvas login page: <https://mvsd.instructure.com/login/canvas>
2. Enter your email address and the new password you created.
3. Click **Log In**.

Once set up, you'll be able to view your child's progress and engage with their academic journey in real time. You can also reach out to teachers directly via Canvas for any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to provide the best possible learning environment for all of our students. We look forward to partnering with you to help your child succeed!

Sincerely,



Kate O'Brien, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning & Leadership