

Greetings SMJUHSD Teaching Staff,

After our first full semester of Distance Learning, we have all learned a LOT! We have received feedback from teachers, students, and parents throughout the semester that has guided some suggestions below for making some adjustments for the Spring.

First is the integration of Zoom into your courses. This is a simple step that all teachers should consider making for their courses to improve the security of your class sessions and improve the usability of your Canvas course for all students. This is the most secure way to avoid "zoom bombing" and disruptions. When zoom is integrated into Canvas this is near impossible. If you are a Twitter user simply look up #zoomcodes, #zoomclasscodes, or #zoomraids to find classroom codes posted online. Canvas integration should solve this problem. It must be done in each individual course by the teacher, but only takes a couple of minutes. TeamTOSA will be offering help in January for all teachers to get this done.

The second is the organization/navigation of Canvas courses. With every course being unique students and parents are often having to navigate each course differently and are often confused. There is no standardization at present. We are looking to develop consistency with the organization and navigation of courses to simplify this for students and parents. In developing the elements necessary for this many examples of courses have been reviewed to build from the great work of our teachers. TeamTOSA will provide templates and examples that will be available to everyone in January that we strongly urge you to consider and adopt to help facilitate easier navigation for parents and students.

Thank you and I hope all of you enjoy a restful break and happy holidays.

Respectfully,

Paul R. Robinson, PhD
Director of Career Technical Education
Interim Director of Information Technology
Santa Maria Joint Union High School District
805.922.4573 x4217