Anywhere, Anytime Learning

Remote Learning enabled by **Microsoft Teams**

Anywhere, Anytime Learning

The concept of anywhere, anytime learning has gained traction in recent years, and modern technology has made this more possible and practical than ever before.

Microsoft's mission in education is to empower every student and teacher on the planet to achieve more, and we want to take every measure possible to support all Education institutions.

Microsoft Teams and Microsoft solutions for education allow students to learn from anywhere, anytime. Content and assignments can be accessed online, students and teachers can interact using online tools, and can collaborate with each other for group work or assignments.

Anywhere, Anytime Learning

Publish classroom content online or conduct online interactive classrooms. Teachers and students can use a single interface within Microsoft teams to learn, collaborate, and interact online.

Learning from anywhere

Content for classrooms and assignments can be published online and students can access it from anywhere. Using Teams, students can access content, collaborate with other students, interact with teachers, and submit assignments online. Teachers can review student assignments and provide timely feedback.

Online classrooms

Teachers can host classrooms online, allowing them to share a presentation or a digital whiteboard. Teachers and students can interact using the whiteboard as well as text, audio, or video. Sessions can also be recorded for offline viewing.

Live events

Live seminars with hundreds of students up to 10,000 attendees can be hosted online using Teams live events. Questions can be submitted by attendees and managed by presenters.

Remote Learning Solution Details:

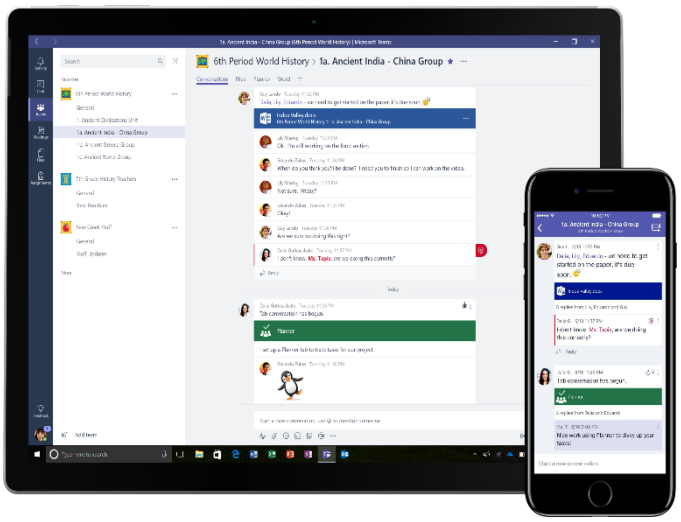
Modern Classroom Interaction

The core of the solution is enabled by Office 365 Education. Office 365 Education is free for Students and educators at eligible institutions and it includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, and now Microsoft Teams, plus additional classroom tools. Microsoft Teams can be leveraged for anywhere, anytime learning and can enable multiple scenarios for remote learning.

Microsoft Teams enables students, teachers, and staff seamlessly work together, create content, and share resources all from a single, easy-to-learn and simple to use platform.

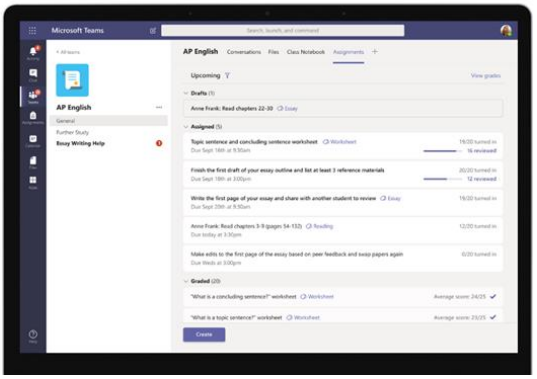
*__Collaborative classrooms:__ Stay connected with persistent chat, channel conversations, and meetings. Empower student voice with rich conversations, video, and fun content. Easily create and share content with embedded Office 365 apps and files.

Click here to learn more.



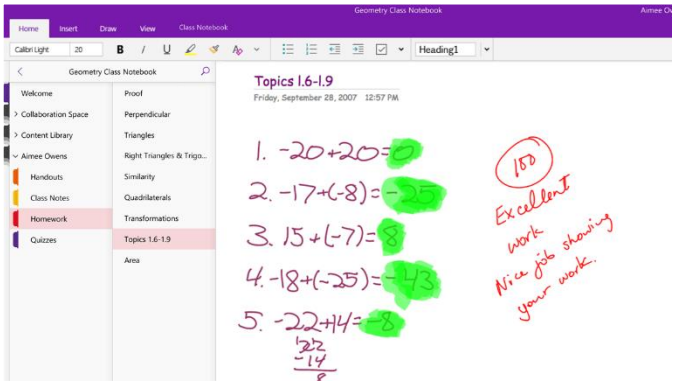
*__Personalize Learning with Assignments:__ Create meaningful assignments, provide transparent guidance, and share rich feedback. Organize and track each class' assignments and grades directly from a class team. Quickly create, distribute, and grade assignments all within Teams.

Click here to learn more.



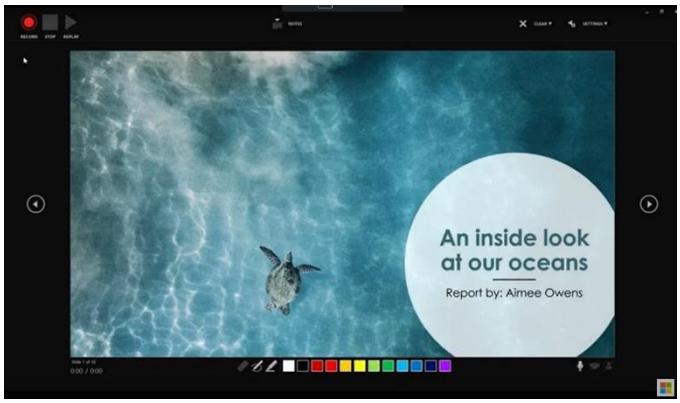
***Improve Classroom Collaboration with OneNote Class Notebook:** Stay organized in a digital binder for an entire class and organize course content your way. Create and deliver interactive lessons to some or all students. Collaborate and provide private feedback to individual students in their own personal section.

Click here to learn more.



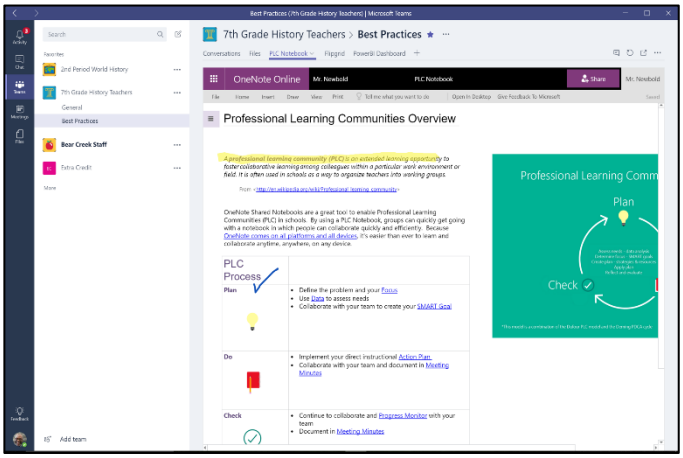
***Record classroom sessions with PowerPoint or through Teams online session recording:** Record a slide show with narration and slide timings

Click here to learn more.



***Connect in Professional Learning Communities:** Collaborate on lesson plans with built-in OneNote PLC Notebooks. Keep educators up to date with threaded and persistent chat and collective history.

Click here to learn more.



***Teams live events** – a video broadcast experience for up to 10,000 attendees, with live Q&A, and which can allow anonymous users.

Click here to learn more.

***Devices for teachers and students:** Teams and O365 can be accessed from any laptop or mobile device. Education institutions looking to procure teacher or student devices must consider different aspects when choosing the right device. One key aspect is a device that supports an active digital pen. This can help teachers deliver more engaging online and recorded sessions. It could also help students be more effective at taking notes, doing assignments, and be creative.

Backend Services

The proposed Microsoft solution is scalable and offers both Cloud and on-premises options to help customers scale and at the same time comply with local laws and regulations.
The modern classroom interaction part of the solution is based on Microsoft Office 365 that is cloud based and can scale up to the needs of Education institutions.
Students can access all Office components from anywhere using a laptop, tablet, or mobile device with an internet connection.

Beyond Office 365, Education institutions leverage many systems including a Learning Management System (LMS) and a Student Information System (SIS) or a School Management System.
One way to help the solution scale to anywhere/anytime access is to Lift and shift the core systems to run on a cloud platform such as Microsoft Azure. This shift can be a straightforward technical implementation and can offer the scalability and flexibility needed to provide access to students and teachers from anywhere.
If local laws and governance prevent student data to be hosted in the cloud, then a hybrid implementation can be done to host part of the system on the cloud for scale, and private student data in the local data center in order to comply with Data sovereignty and protection law.

For education institutions using one of the core LMS systems used around the world, an integration can be done between the LMS system and Office 365 using a feature called School Data Synch (SDS).
With this integration, data from LMS will be used to automatically create all classes and add teachers and students to them. Grades and assignments will be replicated between Office 365 and LMS. More information on this can be found through this website.

Beyond the core systems, customers could consider multiple systems that can be used to enhance remote learning. These could include an online assessment and examination system. These systems are built to test students for skills developed and have the capability to minimize cheating. Other systems to consider would include Performance Measurement and personalized learning.
Each student's performance is tracked and reported, and a customized curriculum and content could be provided to each student. This will ensure that students are well engaged and are able to develop to their fullest potential in each subject area.

Implementation Plan

Rolling out a remote learning solution at scale is a process that needs careful planning and well managed execution. The best way to do this in a sure step way is to partner with a solution provider with extensive experience in implementing such solutions for Education. Microsoft has a wide ecosystem of solution providers that Education institutions can work with.

Below are some of the steps that would be needed for this journey. This is only a high-level list aiming to give an idea on some of the operational aspects needed.

1- **Create accounts for all teachers and student.**
   Teachers and students will need individual Username/password in order to access the system, review content, collaborate, and interact. Many tasks have to be done for this including getting a list of Teacher/Student names, devising a unique username based on First/Last name, creating the accounts, assigning rights and permissions, distributing username/passwords, etc….
2- **Setup structured communication channels**
   With a remote learning setup, it is important to have structured communication channels in order to allow Education administrators to communicate with Staff, Teachers, Students, and parents. Also, communication channels should be available for teachers to communicate with each other and with students and parents. All these scenarios and more need to be planned for and the right channels and technology setup to support.
3- **Create awareness**
   Communication needs to be sent to all Parents, students, and teachers on the solution details. Communication could include a description of the solution with a User guide as well as a Frequently asked questions section. The School can also host a session for teachers/parents in order to address any concerns and answer questions.
4- **Ready teachers**
   Teachers capable of using the system is a key element of a successful implementation. A detailed plan of Teacher training needs to be implemented covering topics from the use of technology, to the User of Technology in Education. Best practices for champion teachers and Train the Trainer activities can be shared by Microsoft and partners through our community of *Microsoft Innovative Expert Educators (MIEEs)*, in addition to online content that is freely available on *Microsoft Educator Center:* https://education.microsoft.com/. Teacher Learning communities can also be created in TEAMS to help teachers share knowledge and best practices.

5- **Ready students and parents**
   Create simple guides and videos to send to Parents and students instructing them how to use the system. Videos can be sent through email or shared through social media channels.
6- **Test out the solution**
   Leading up to the full implementation of the solution, a series of tests must be conducted. These will evolve from simple tasks that all students and teachers have to do in the school. This could include login into the system, accessing content, teachers to post announcements/content/assignments and students to post on discussion board/review content/submit assignment. Next step could be to do all these tasks from home. Eventually a "fire Drill" type of exercise must be done having all students/teachers test the system on the same day in order to test the full solution. All aspects of the solution must be measured including users knowledge of using the system all the way to network or system challenges.
   All issues need to be tracked and addressed as needed in order to optimize the solution.
7- **Roll out and support**
   Once testing is done successfully; a full rollout of the solution can happen and the support and optimization phase can begin. A support system needs to be in place to help Teachers/Students/parents with any challenges or blockers that they might have. Constant monitoring and optimization should be in place.
   Additions to the base solution could then be possible such as enhanced LMS system, Examination system, assessment and personalized learning system based on AI, etc.…

The above steps are just a simple list of some of the aspects of the solution to be considered. The recommendation is to start with a simple scenario, get it working well, and then adding additional scenarios and capabilities to the solution. Also, as mentioned before, hiring the right partner will ensure that best practices are implemented and will ensure that the solution runs smoothly with the right level off support before, during, and after implementation.