

VLE Tools for Ontario Educators

Ontario's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) is powered by D2L's Brightspace learning platform. This learning platform is provided by the Ministry of Education at no cost to Ontario's publicly funded school boards. As you are likely aware, Ontario's VLE is a feature-rich, secure online platform that supports learning in both eLearning and face-to-face classes. Ontario's VLE includes functionality to:

- Support and document student learning and achievement.
- Engage parents with the Brightspace for Parents tool.
- Provide opportunities for rich assessment and feedback.
- Support educators using a variety of digital tools and resources.
- Maximize the use of the Ministry-provided content.

The Portfolio Tool

The robust Portfolio tool grows with students as they progress year-over-year. It is designed for students of all ages and makes it easy for them to share their progress, reflections and learning experiences. It allows educators to capture pedagogic evidence of learning and to record private anecdotal notes. The ability to align portfolio artifacts with Ontario curriculum expectations allows educators to be fair and transparent about how learning activities, student products, and learning conversations fit into the Ontario curriculum and align with growing success. The portfolio tool is a great starting point for educators and students who want to use technology to support learning.

Assessments: Assignments and Rubrics

The rubrics tool allows educators to create and use digital rubrics and to reduce marking time. The new file submission options in the assignments tool, including "On Paper" and "Observed in Person," allow educators to enjoy

VLE Tools:	Portfolio	Lessons	Activity Feed	Rubrics	Assignments	Video Assignments
Document student learning and/or provide feedback	✓			✓	✓	✓
Communicate with students and parents	✓		✓			
Engage students	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Align with Ministry expectations	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Integrate with Google Drive	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Organize digital resources and activities	✓	✓	✓		✓	

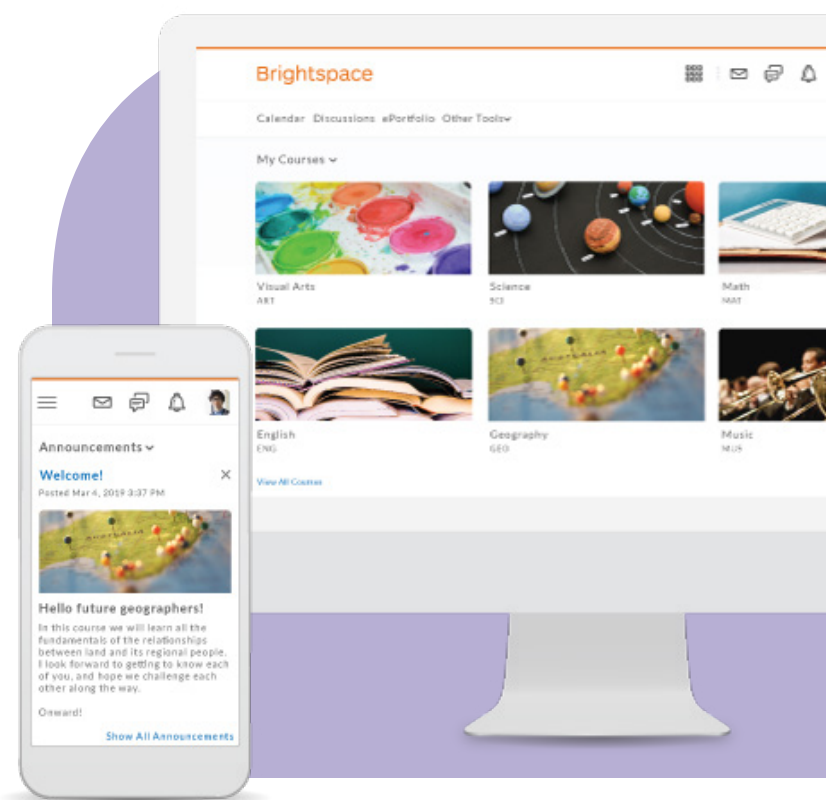
the benefits of making assessments using the rubrics tool without learners actually having to submit digital work into the VLE. Integrated grading and feedback, including document annotations, allow educators to seamlessly share assessment information and feedback with parents through the included Brightspace for Parents. Annotation features allow for easy grading and in-context feedback.

Lessons

The VLE gives educators the flexibility to create learning content from scratch or to upload existing resources. They can pace material, hide lessons and post content to the activity feed. They can also give students easy access to differentiated resources to promote independent learning and to resources that support students' achievements. Educators can align learning content and activities with Ontario curriculum expectations to ensure students have ample opportunities to engage in learning.

Activity Feed

The activity feed is fully integrated into the VLE as a part of Brightspace (including Brightspace for Parents), allowing students to easily find any newly created content. The activity feed is also an easy way for educators to share learning resources with students and to communicate important messages with the class. The activity feed is social-inspired to make it fun, easy to use and a breeze to navigate.



Video Assignments

Video assignments give students a way to easily record themselves, thereby creating many opportunities to differentiate learning and a variety of options for creative projects and assignments. Peer assessment features allow students to provide feedback and helpful support to others in the classroom.

About D2L

D2L is the software leader that makes learning experiences better. The company's cloud-based platform is easy to use, flexible, and smart. With Brightspace, organizations can personalize the experience for every learner to deliver real results. The company is a world leader in learning analytics: Its platform predicts learner performance so that organizations can take action in real time to keep learners on track. Brightspace is used by learners in higher education, schools, and the enterprise sector, including the Fortune 1000. D2L has operations in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, Brazil, and Singapore.