Hello everyone! Finally a newsletter for you all!

The staff is working hard on coming up with plans for this upcoming new school year, we will be looking at you all to help us recruit for one, at this time we don’t even know if we will be allowed in the schools.

I am looking into plenty of virtual “trips” - colleges, places of interest and much more! If you have any suggestions, please share with me! (Geri)

We will be using Virtual Job Shadowing the rest of the year as well. So keep your log in information handy if you have it! If you don’t have a log in, let me know and I will get you signed up ASAP!

So please share this & have students email me for applications!

There might be a small gift for the student who brings us the most new/valid students who are truly interested in the UB program.

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How To Overcome 5 Common Problems Faced By Students In eLearning

eLearning, being the latest wave of education, is already having a fair show despite posing challenges for both instructors and students. While instructors need to put in intensive work and time to design the instruction, students need to equip themselves with technical proficiency to decode the course material. There are 5 common problems faced by students in eLearning classes and which they need to be solved through proper initiatives for the students’ future benefits:

1. **Adaptability Struggle.** Switching from traditional classroom and face to face instructor training to computer-based training in a virtual classroom makes the learning experience entirely different for students. Their resistance to change doesn’t allow them to adapt to the online learning environment, whereas it takes time for them to get accustomed to Course Management Systems (CMS) and the methods of computer-based education. While passive listening and notes taking are expected in a traditional classroom, online discussions or creating a web page demand springing into action. Students with a “traditional” mindset find it difficult to adapt; however, they need to accept the new learning circumstances with an open mind and heart. Understanding the benefits of eLearning and even discussing them with their peers may change this mindset and better prepare students for online classes.

2. **Technical Issues.** Many students are not provided with the high bandwidth or the strong internet connection that online courses require, and thus fail to catch up with their virtual classmates: Their weak monitors make it hard to follow the Course Management System and their learning experience becomes problematic. Moreover, most of them live off campus and find it difficult to keep in tune with the technical requirements of the chosen course. Some of them don’t even own computers and seek help in Learning Resource Centers for technical assistance. The only solution to this problem is knowing exactly what kind of technological support they will need for a certain course before enrolling in it, as well as properly equipping themselves for the course’s successful completion.

3. **Computer Literacy.** Although students are generally tech savvy, and thus able to manage computers well, lack of computer literacy is a major issue among students today. Many of them cannot operate basic programs such as Microsoft Word and PowerPoint and therefore are not able to handle their files. Furthermore, many students find fixing basic computer problems troublesome, as they have no knowledge in this area. However, technological proficiency is a must for following online courses, as it enables students to manage their assignments and courseware in an organized manner without struggling. Basic courses in computer literacy enhance students’ knowledge in the field; having a fundamental knowledge of computer hardware would help them participate in online classes without interruptions and hindrances.

4. **Time Management.** Time management is a difficult task for eLearners, as online courses require a lot of time and intensive work. Furthermore, whereas it is mostly adults who prefer web-based learning programs for their place and time flexibility, they rarely have the time to take the courses due to their various everyday commitments. A regular schedule planner would be a significant help to these learners, as they could even set reminders for their courses and assignments.

5. **Self-Motivation.** Self-motivation is an eLearning essential requirement; however, many online learners lack it, much to their surprise. After enrolling in distance learning courses, many learners fall behind and nurture the idea of giving up, as difficulties in handling a technological medium also seem insurmountable. Students need to find the motivation to follow the new educational trends and also properly equip themselves for future challenges in their education and careers. Only a positive attitude will help them overcome the challenges in eLearning; though this is hard to practice, students need to understand that it is necessary in order to reap the eLearning’s benefits in the future.

eLearning is good news, but at its initial stage it poses certain threats to students. Attitude change and technological literacy would help them gain confidence in order to succeed in their courses with a positive vibe.
April — August Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all our students we missed in April, May, June, July & August

APRIL
Da Zhana Cannady
Montana Dye
Kaitlyn Williams
Brendan Blankenship
Dakota Siegler
Logan Bennett
Sheridan Calhoun
Ka'Miau Collins
Breanna Turpin
Arianna McKinney

MAY
Madison Harper
Emily Dunn
Robert Harrah
Jakayla Mathews
Natalie Williams
Emily Curry
Hannah Austin
Kaitlin Meadows
Brooklyn Ellison
Shaevon Boyd
Hannah Allen
Benjamin Roark
Morgan Marek
Brandon Hickman
Drevon Barney
John Hicks
Kaine Thorne

JUNE
Khiamani Vineyard
Luke Parton
Jimera Hernandez
Ni'Yona Perkins
Imir Dowell
Andrew Walker
Omarion Cummings
Jason Haggerty
Justin Haggerty
Ja'marion Howard
MaHalia Long
AnneMarie Telano
Caroline Telano
Kameron Morris

AUGUST
Kendra Goeddert
Joniyah Burroughs
Kameron Miller
Alexander Stacy
Tyler Raynor
Hannah Dailey
Derick Flack
Elliott Smith
Levi Thompson
Jasauni Sizemore
NyAsia Carrington
Lamarion Safford
LaKayla Wilkins
Jaylan Green
Kobe Holstead
JaeLeion Diggs
Shamya Lane
Megan Reynolds

JULY
Cloie Mitchem
Ariel Lilly
Dazya Martin
Angel Young
Cloe McGhee
Andrew David
Grace Mercado
Cornelius Thomas
The current COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in frantic scrambling efforts to alter our lifestyles in ways that most people have never thought seriously about before. One of these dramatic changes is for educators of all types and levels (from primary school to high school to colleges and universities everywhere) to move their courses and instructional activities from in-person to online formats. While some instructors have already become familiar with and have impressive skills using online instruction, probably the vast majority of educators have not.

Much has been written and discussed about how educators have quickly moved to online platforms, like Zoom. Yet, many are not aware of some of the behavioral and psychological challenges associated with using this technology for classroom instruction.

After consulting with my colleagues, I would like to offer a list of top 10 good Zoom hygiene and etiquette tips for instructors and students alike to try and make the most of this experience. It is my hope that these tips might prove helpful to novice Zoom users and that they may assist in creating online classroom environments that will be rewarding and productive for all. Please note that these tips are just my suggestions with input from colleagues, and there may be many other educators out there who might wish to add additional tips as well.

Top 10 Good Zoom Hygiene and Etiquette Tips

Since we are all transitioning to online teaching and learning during the global COVID-19 pandemic, I thought that it might be helpful to list just a few points to maximize good Zoom hygiene and etiquette. After all, with so many students in Zoom-assisted classes, all it takes is one unmuted mic at an inopportune moment, and you can have a Zooming disaster on your hands. So, please be mindful and follow these top 10 Zoom hygiene and etiquette tips.

1. Be sure to mute your mic (lower-left corner of your screen) as soon as you sign on and whenever you are not speaking. This is important and perhaps the most critical tip on this list to avoid background noise and distractions for others.

2. Consider muting your video (also on the lower left of the screen) if you are eating, scratching, talking with someone else in the room, or anything else that might be distracting to others.

3. Close unneeded applications on your computer to keep the video optimally functioning.

4. You might want to use a headset with an external mic for best hearing and speaking capabilities.

5. When you are speaking, let others know that you are finished by saying one of these sign-offs: “That’s all.” “I’m done.” “Thank you.” So that everyone knows you have finished your comments.

6. If you want to speak, physically raise your hand or use the “raise hand” feature that is available at the bottom center of your screen.

7. You can ask questions and make comments silently if desired using the “Chat” feature (also on the bottom and center of your screen).

8. Be mindful of your background lighting. If you are sitting in front of a window, you may be completely darkened by the light coming through the window. Your overhead light also might need to be turned off or dimmed as well.

9. Be sure that there is nothing visually distracting (e.g., cars or people going by) in the background too.

10. Remember to sign out or “leave the meeting” when the session is finished.

Bonus item! Do not forget that clothing is not optional!

Thanks, Zoomers, for attending to these top 10 tips that will hopefully make the online classroom experience better for all!

We are going to ask/require every student and or parent to have FB and join our FB page, that is where all updates will be posted, it is very important. If there is some reason neither you nor your parent can attain a FB account please let me or your counselor know as soon as possible please!

Thanks