

Web 2.0 Tools for school staff communication

INTRODUCTION

Communication (1/2)

- ✓ In the school community, communication can be defined as a process of sharing information through the use of a set of commonly accepted rules. These rules may vary depending on circumstances, for example:
 - ✓ the flow of information may be interrupted by situational pressures, differences in the perspectives of different teachers may interfere with the nature of shared meanings,
 - ✓ It is necessary to choose an alternative form of communication that is more effective in the context interlocutors are in,
 - ✓ the rules themselves may be changed by inappropriate responses.

INTRODUCTION

Communication (2/2)

- ✓ Establishing good communication among the various figures involved in the school setting can:
 - ✓ increase awareness about problems and instructional solutions;
 - ✓ Enhance individual or group supportive behaviors;
 - ✓ Highlight the skills of each individual;
 - ✓ Implement cooperation;
 - ✓ reinforce positive behaviors and attitudes.

WEB 2.0 TOOLS FOR COMMUNICATION



Web 2.0 tools to support communication (1/2)

- ✓ Web 2.0 tools and social networking technologies can be used to support teaching and learning in the classroom. Currently, there is a lot of excitement about Web 2.0 in education, but we still know very little about how these tools can be used by teachers to create a community of practice among teachers both from the same school and from different schools that belong to a common network.
- ✓ Collaboration is an essential element and appropriate tools need to allow teachers to communicate with colleagues and administrators.

WEB 2.0 TOOLS FOR COMMUNICATION



Web 2.0 tools to support communication (2/2)

- ✓ In general, all video conferencing systems can be used, as they are useful tools to continue teaching even from home, allowing the possibility to talk and see each other through the screen. The apps for video conferencing that can be used at school must have certain characteristics:
 - ✓ ensure high standards of security
 - ✓ Ensure lesson moderation
 - ✓ Allow for the exchange of information
 - ✓ Allow for scheduling of meetings
 - ✓ respect the privacy of participants
- ✓ Follow some of the most used web 2.0 tools for communication.

HANGOUTS MEET

Google Hangouts Meet

- ✓ A very effective platform for distance learning is the one offered by Google, namely G-Suite For Education. The Hangouts Meet and Classroom components allow video conference participation for up to 250 people. The Classroom application, in particular, allows you to create virtual classes, communicate in synchronous and asynchronous ways, distribute assignments and tests, and give and receive feedback on a single platform.



WESCHOOL

WeSchool

- ✓ WeSchool, is a very popular Web2.0 platform that can be used from both mobile apps and computers.
- ✓ WeSchool is a digital classroom platform that allows teachers and students to use a virtual classroom for live video conferencing lessons and a chat facility. Once the teacher creates his or her Class Group, he or she and his or her students will be able to take advantage of various tools, such as a bulletin board for notices and communications and a folder (Board) where the teacher can upload content.
- ✓ The Online Lesson mode has some issues, such as the fact that there is no real control of the video call entrusted only to the professor, or other problems with access to the platform itself

ZOOM



Zoom

- ✓ Zoom is a remote conferencing service in which you can create a virtual classroom in which the teacher shares his screen. Very useful is the "Raise your hand" feature, to ask questions just like in the classroom
- ✓ The free version allows the participation of up to 100 users, while some paid variants go up to 300-500 participants.
- ✓ This platform has encountered some security issues. For example, it is possible that some users from outside the video conference may interfere and disturb the other participants, often sharing various types of content or hate speech.
- ✓ The software house has tried to solve the various security and privacy issues with some updates. But it is still involved in serious account theft incidents.