

Class Dojo and Poole Elementary, A Perfect Match

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Emerging Technology

Class Dojo: What is it?

- Class Dojo is a free online behavior management tool and communications tool that supports Poole Elementary's technology vision with students and parents.
- Teachers create a class and the behaviors they want to monitor, both positive and negative.
- Throughout the day, teachers can award point to students for certain behaviors, and take away points for certain behaviors.

Class Dojo: What is it? Cont'd

Click on the links below to see a video on how Class Dojo can be used in the classroom.

<https://youtu.be/Rzzb5cmNoc0> - For students to view the first days of school.

<https://youtu.be/RYeKBOMr5Mo> - An introduction for teachers.

Why Class Dojo?

- Class Dojo is an important tool that will keep students, teachers, and parents connected about what is going on in school.
- Contacting parents is easy and affective.

The technology vision of Paulding County School

- Paulding County School District's vision of technology use for students and teachers is to engage, inspire, and prepare.
- Class Dojo will meet the needs of these areas for our district. It will also meet our schools initiative to have parents more involved in school events and activities.

Objective

- The main objective of Class Dojo is to have teachers create positive and negative behaviors and monitor students throughout the day.
- To connect parents and students to the app so they can monitor their behaviors, see notes made by teachers, and communicate with parents on all levels.
- Post pictures and videos so parents can see what is going on during the school day.

Key Benefits

- The Class Dojo app can be downloaded on many different devices, and can be used on the internet as well.
- Students and parents are connected and can discuss information with teachers.
- The parent can be connected to their child or children only and not see other students behaviors or messages of other parents, just the ones that they send to the teacher.
- Teachers can communicate with individual parents or all of the parents at once, depending on the situation.
- Teachers can post videos and pictures of students working for all parents to see, or to individual students.

Target Population

- The target population for Class Dojo will be all Poole Elementary staff, students and parents. All teachers will create their homeroom class, which can be shared with any other teacher or staff member in the building.
- Teachers connect with parents by sending a letter home that has the parent code for their child. Once signed in, the parent can see everything the teacher post about their child.
- The best strategy may be to have volunteer teachers in each grade level test the effectiveness of the technology to see if benefits teachers, students, and parents.

Equipment and Software

- Class Dojo is a web based program and it is free. Wireless access is required for teachers to use on tablets, but teachers are also able to use their cellular devices which may not require wireless internet.
- App must be downloaded onto tablets or phones for teacher and student use.
- When given permission, app will access camera for posting photos and videos of activities in the classroom, or special messages from the teacher.

Technology Support

- Class Dojo has a help desk icon that offers teachers, students, and parents assistance if needed. For teachers, some of the categories they offer assistance in are privacy settings, ending the school year, the basics, troubleshooting, features, student accounts, portfolios, toolkit, collaborating with teachers, connecting with parents and students, and classroom resources.
- There is also an email feature where you can email Class Dojo and someone will get back with you about a specific question.

Technical Support Cont'd

- Support for parents and students are similar to the teacher support, just not as much is offered because the students and parents use it more for monitoring and communicating and do not set much up within the app other than their own settings.

Limitations

- This program requires the internet or an electronic device such as a tablet or cell phone. Students and parents that may lack these devices will be unable to connect with the app and communicate through the app with the teachers.
- The app will also require the students to sign up and join. Students must have an email account, or use their parents, in order to create their account.
- Parents may not be comfortable with their children signing up for an account.
- If staff member does not have a cell phone or tablet, they will still be able to use the website, but will lack the ability for immediate rewards and may forget to award points later if outside the classroom.

Cost of the Technology

- The cost of the technology is free.
- The downloading of the app is free and it is free to create classrooms. It is also free for parents and students to sign up as well.
- If wanting to have the entire school use Class Dojo, professional development would be needed for the staff. There are many options on the Class Dojo site that offer assistance to the person providing the training for the staff.
- Through our discount from Dell, Paulding County can purchase Dell 3180 laptops for \$229.99. These are touch screens that teachers can use as computer or tablet.

Potential Funding Sources

- Paulding County has a system wide foundation that teachers or schools may apply for.
- Teachers can write grant proposals to fund technology.
- Poole Elementary is a title one school, which may provide technology if it promotes student achievement.

How do teachers use Class Dojo?

- Class Dojo is used by teachers to help manage their students behaviors and work in a positive way.
- Teachers create a homeroom roster where each student is assigned a monster avatar. When the student creates an account, they may create their own monster avatar.
- Teachers will create positive and negative behaviors that will be assigned to students throughout the day.
- Students will have the ability to track their behavior points using the Class Dojo app or a computer.

How do teachers use Class Dojo? Cont'd

- Students are able to see behaviors and teacher comments posted. Students and parents are also able to see the class portfolio.
- The class portfolio consists of teacher posted pictures, videos, links, and other information the teacher want the class to know.
- Students have the ability to post on their portfolio as well. Teachers may assign students an activity that needs to be posted onto their Class Dojo portfolio for teacher to view. Students may have to explain a math problem, respond to a reading assignment, and many other uses.

How Does this Technology Promote Specific Learning Goals?

- The teachers can set behavior goals for the students to reach.
- Have students post certain information into their portfolios to check for understanding, and award points to students for going above and beyond.
- You can assign certain students to respond to certain posts and check for understanding.

How can this Technology be used for Differentiated Instruction?

- For behavior, teachers can assign certain behaviors to certain students, which will not be visible to all students. Teachers can also group students and assign different behaviors to different groups.
- Teachers can assign students to post different assignments on the same standards. Based on abilities, teachers may assign different problems that students have to respond to and post their answers in the portfolio section.

How Could this Technology Promote Communication?

- Instant feedback to parents and students. When points are awarded or taken, parents that have access can log on and see how their child is doing in school and all of the postings onto the student's portfolio.
- There is a messaging piece that allows you to text the parent, and when notifications are turned on, parents will see that message immediately.
- You can post to all parents, which is good when needing to get out information to the whole class.
- You may message one parent to discuss what is needed, and the parents can contact you first when they are signed up.

Evaluating Research

- Class Dojo is currently in 90% of k-8 schools in the United States. (Class Dojo Fast Fact 2018)
- Class Dojo promotes positive behaviors in students. Encourages students to earn positive points and stay focused and engaged on the assignment at hand.
- Students are able to clearly see what behaviors are expected and which are prohibited and they are rewarded or redirected in a logical manner. (Saeger, p. 6)

Evaluating Research Cont'd

- Class Dojo promotes Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- The PBIS framework helps schools create a positive culture, by encouraging positive behaviors and providing a framework for evidence-based interventions. (<https://www.classdojo.com/pbis/>)
- When implementing PBIS school wide, Class Dojo can help set a consistent expectation school wide.
- Easy to share data with school counselors and administrators.
- It can improve family engagement.

Implementation Plan

- To implement Class Dojo, I would ask the leadership team to assist and be the one teacher on their grade level that would use Class Dojo.
- If another teacher wants to lead Class Dojo for their team, that would be fine. It does not have to be the team leader.
- I would assist teachers in setting up their classrooms and show them how the app and website work.
- Each teacher will have to get parents to sign up and must communicate with parents through the app. Remind 101 will be replaced by Class Dojo for these teachers.

Implementation Plan Cont'd

- We will meet as a group once a month to discuss how using Class Dojo has helped their behavior management or hurt it.
- We will brainstorm how our PBIS activities can tie into Class Dojo.
- We will also brainstorm how Class Dojo can be used for students who are on RTI for behavior and data collection.
- By the end of the school year, the group will present their findings to the leadership team and make a final decision on whether or not Class Dojo should be used school wide.

Reflection

- Class Dojo is an app and website that promotes positive behavior. I have seen this app used for lots of negative in my days, so I often stayed away from it.
- After conducting research, I have found that it is often used for the positive. Our school is starting the PBIS process, and I have been assigned to the PBIS team. Class Dojo would be a great start for our school when it comes to being positive because you can see all the points you award. It keeps the teachers in check and makes them think of how they are using their points.
- Not only would this improve my behavior management within my classroom, but other teachers in my building as well.

References

E. (2015, June 15). How to use ClassDojo with PBIS. Retrieved from <https://www.classdojo.com/pbis/>

Chaykowski, K. (2017, May 23). How ClassDojo Built One Of The Most Popular Classroom Apps By Listening To Teachers. Retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kathleenchaykowski/2017/05/22/how-classdojo-built-one-of-the-most-popular-classroom-apps-by-listening-to-teachers/#1d8290da1e5e>

Saeger, A. M. (2017, June 20). Using ClassDojo to promote positive behaviors and decrease negative behaviors in the classroom (Doctoral dissertation, Rowan University, 2017) [Abstract].