Box Elder School District

How to Create a Teacher Blog
Introduction to Blogs

Box Elder School District Blogs: Take a Tour

Make a Blog Plan

Create Your Blog Space

Explore Blogging Possibilities

Manage Your Blog

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Introduction to Blogs

- Manage your Blog
- Take a Tour
- Explore the Possibilities
- Make a Plan
- Create your Space
Why Now?

- Broad Interest
- Frequent Requests
- Appeal to Parents
- Great Public Relations

*Let’s rate our ability!*
Introduction to Blogs

- What is a Blog
  - “Web and Log”
- Ongoing chronicle of information
- Frequently updated
- Key components
  - Main content area
  - Archive
  - Public comments
  - Links
  - RSS Feed
How to Apply for a Blog

- Complete On-line Blog Request
  - [www.besd.net](http://www.besd.net)
- Submit to Richard Johnson
- Approval Notification
To request a Box Elder School District blog account, please complete the following information and return to Richard Johnson.

Name:________________________ Email address:________________________

School:________________________ Assignment:________________________

Purpose of blog:

Once you request a blog, the blog will be made as quickly as possible. You will be required to participate in a short training and familiarize yourself with district policy. You will then be able to go to your new blog and get started! Box Elder School District Blogs are all listed as http://blogs.besd.net/(name of your blog).

After you have had the training and have created your blog, please send any requests or questions to Richard Johnson or Lynne Baty. This would include general questions or requests for new themes or changes for an existing theme. Happy blogging!
Introduction to Blogs

- Take a Tour
- Make a Plan
- Create your Space
- Explore the Possibilities
- Manage your Blog
The Dashboard

Topic Menu

To see the actual site

Available Space

Recent Activity
Choose the Theme that best meets your needs for style, look, and feel. Not all Themes have the same capabilities.

Choose from a variety of Themes.
Appearance: Widgets

Available widgets are activated by dragging them into the sidebar.

Widgets are specific to the chosen theme.

Deactivate widgets by dragging them from the sidebar to the Inactive Widgets section.
Site Management

Manage all of your posts, pages, categories, etc.
Comments must be approved before they are made public.
Home Page: Check Progress

Welcome

Thanks for visiting the BESD Testing Blog! This is a forum for schools to have questions answered, share ideas, and make comments. The following pages are available. Each page contains specific assessment information:

- Grade Level Tests
- Dates to Remember
- Accommodations Policy
- 2009-2010 Test Schedule

The following links are available for your convenience. Other valuable links are provided in the "blogroll" located in the right side-bar.

- Box Elder School District: http://www.besd.net

CURRENT NEWS!

Welcome to Box Elder School District's Testing Blog! Thanks for your participation in the On-Line DWA. Everything seemed to go well.
We are looking forward to our on-line CRT administration. We are planning to have our first "load-test" on March 16th.
Please contact my office if you have questions!

Calendar

March 2010

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Terms

- **View Site**: See the actual site as you make modifications.
- **Sidebar**: Contains widgets-pages, categories, links, calendar, etc.
- **Posts**: Title, comments stored in categories.
- **Home Page**: Most recent post or link to static opening page.
- **Archives**: Organizes previous posts.
- **Dashboard**: “Stuff” available to you with your current theme.
- **Appearance**: Themes and widgets.
- **Blogroll**: Links to other websites.
- **Comments**: Left by others visiting your blog and must be moderated.
Introduction to Blogs

Manage your Blog

Take a Tour

Explore the Possibilities

Create your Space

Make a Plan
Plan Your Blog

- First step is to determine the purpose, content and audience of your blog.
- Think about the following:
  - What am I going to do with this?
  - Who is going to read this?
  - What kind of information will I be posting?
  - Why am I doing this?
  - Who am I doing this for?
  - How often am I going to be posting and adding information?

Look at your Blog Planning Template
Plan Your Blog

- Complete the “Planning Your Blog” form.
- Be creative…but keep it simple.
- Use the information to complete the following:

“This blog will be dedicated to_________,__________, and __________.
It will cover the following topics:________,_________, and __________. The audience will be _______. I will be adding posts every __________about__________. I am doing this because__________________.”
Plan Your Blog

- Example:
- Lynne’s Testing Blog:

“This blog will be dedicated to information regarding assessment in Box Elder School District. It will cover the following topics: ALL U-Pass Assessments, AYP, DIBELS, UTIPS, Testing Schedules, Accommodations and other information and data that pertains to testing and student achievement. The audience will be administrators, teachers and counselors. I will be adding posts as necessary about current testing issues. I am doing this to provide schools timely information in an efficient easy to access format”.
Title and Tagline

- What will be the title of your blog?
- After you have created a title you can create a “tagline”.
- A “tagline” is a short, creative phrase that describes your blog.
Title and Tagline: Example

Title: Ramblings, Resources and Ruminations

Tagline: A New Teacher Blog
Sidebar

- Sidebars can be customized by determining the information you want to have accessible.
- Sidebars are created and organized through available widgets. Here are a few common widgets:
  - Calendar
  - Categories
  - Recent Posts
  - Archives
  - Blogroll
  - Search RSS Feed
On your planning template identify other pages, websites, and categories you want to create...
Biographical Statement

- You may want to include a biographical statement about yourself to be included on your home page.
- In could include the following:
  - A brief history of yourself
  - Include any professional/educational information
  - What you want viewers of your site to know about you
Welcome Message

- It is nice to have a Welcome Message somewhere on your home page.
- It is a brief message that welcomes viewers to your blog and helps with any information that may be necessary to navigate your blog site.
Welcome Message: Example

- **Rumination:** "Each child is living the only life he has—the only one he will ever have. The least we can do is not diminish it.” - Bill Page

*Your welcome could change as you desire or be linked to a static page*
Create Your Space

- Complete On-line Blog Application
  - [www.besd.net](http://www.besd.net)
- Submit to Richard Johnson
- Wait for Approval Notification
- Put your “Plan” into action
  - Create Title
  - Choose Theme
  - Manage Widgets
  - Manage Categories
  - Manage Pages
  - Manage Posts
  - Manage Comments
  - Manage Blogroll
Explore

- Check out other blog sites for ideas
- Trade your address with someone in your building to experiment with your blog
Manage Your Blog

- Time to get started!
- Get in the habit of setting a specific time to edit/manage your blog each week.
- Share ideas with colleagues.
- Don’t hesitate to contact us if you have questions.
Questions?

- Please ask questions for additional:
  - Clarification
  - Help
  - Support
  - Concerns
  - Guidance

- Contacts:
  - Lynne Baty - lynne.baty@besd.net
  - Richard Johnson – richard.johnson@besd.net
FINALLY...

- Complete your Post Training Survey
- Complete your Blog Training Evaluation
- Get Started!