

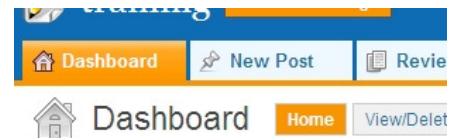
Kidblog's Safe and Secure Blogging: Quick Start Guide

Kidblog.org is a free service designed by teachers for teachers. Create and monitor class blogs safely and efficiently. Sign-ups are fast and simple, making it easy to coordinate a whole class of new students without requiring e-mail addresses. At the same time, the blog's privacy and security is protected by default. No information is collected from students and the teacher remains in control of all activity.

Setting up an Administrator Account



From www.kidblog.org, select Click to Create a Class. Enter username, password, and class name details. Select the gray Create Class button and the next window you'll see is the Dashboard of your new blog.



Creating a New Class

Select the Users tab at the top of the Dashboard. Click the Add New Users button to add users individually or in bulk. Note that the class name you entered is also the blog name, which becomes part of the URL for the class blog, too. Initially, you'll

want to set up all students as one class, even if there are smaller group projects within the class, since the default privacy level is for students to be able to see other classmate's work. If they're not in the same class, they won't be able to see it (or you'll need to change the privacy.) You're limited to 200 students per class, but if you need more usernames you simply start a new class, add the new users to that and then invite them to the original class. You can easily keep adding classes every school year and importing the users from older classes.

Privacy and Security

By default, permissions for viewing posts are set to "Class members only," so only the people you've added to this class will be able to see posts. It's also possible to add more teachers to administrate and to add parent accounts as guest if you want to enable parents to see the class work. Comments are set to be moderated by default, so teachers will be able to block any inappropriate comments made by users. If you do choose to make the blog public, you can continue to filter unsolicited comments.



Add Users

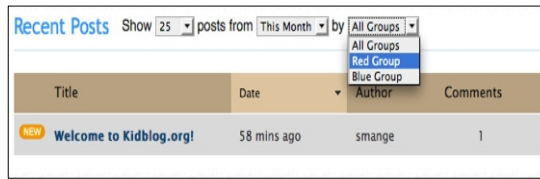
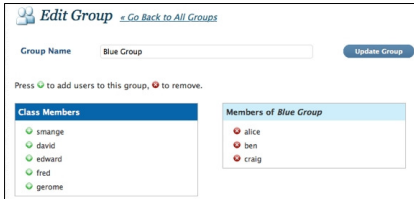
Adding users can be done individually or as a bulk upload, which is recommended. The bulk upload involves creating a .csv or Excel file with just name and password. You can do this easily by using a spreadsheet with a column for name and a column for passwords, then exporting it as a .csv or Excel file. Once the users are added, they can log in and start writing immediately.

	Standard	Standard
1	John	password1
2	Courtney Smith	password2
3	Muhammad A.	password3
4	Student 1	password4

Susannah Modin ~ Technology Teacher Coach ~ City of Burlington Public Schools 2011-2012

This guide is adapted from the originals by Angela Alcorn: <http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/classroom-kids-blogging-5-minutes/> and by Williamson County Schools: http://www.wcs.edu/instructionaltech/KidBlog_Student_Instructions.pdf

Groups



If you've got several groups of kids in the one class all working on different group projects, you'll want to set up appropriate

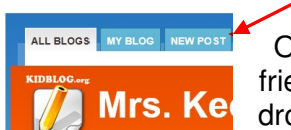
"Groups" with relevant names. Once the groups are set up, students viewing the blog can look at posts just by one person or filter to show only relevant groups.

Finding Your Blog Address



Tell your students to go to the blog URL (you find your blog URL by clicking on the "go to Class Blog" link at the top of your dashboard.) Students can click on the "Log In" link and they are given a drop-down list of names to choose from. So, they only need to remember a password!

Adding a Post



Once logged in, students can browse their friends' posts or filter for groups using the drop-down menu. Select New Post from the

tab at the top. Enter an eye-catching title, enter your message, and select formatting options from the toolbar. Once complete, select the Save as Draft button to edit later or Publish to send your post immediately. Students' posts will be moderated by the teacher before publishing.



Reading Other Blogs

To read other blogs, select Go to Class Blogs from the top of the screen. On one side of the screen, you'll see a list of blog participants called the Blog Directory. Select the name of the person to read and/or comment on their blog.



Commenting on Other Blogs

Select the Leave a Comment link. Type your comment in the box and click the Submit Comment button. Remember that your comment will not be visible until the teacher grants approval for posting.



Choosing Themes



[View Other Themes](#) (Save changes first)

Kidblog allows you to select different Themes for your blog. Go to Control Panel and the Settings tab. Click on View Other Themes. You can select Preview before applying the theme and then Activate when you're ready to make the change.