Grades PreK – 2

Getting Started Guide

Create a powerful learning loop between teachers, students, and families with Seesaw.

In this guide

Introduction to Seesaw

Get Students Started

Connect Families

Deepen Learning

Getting Started Checklist

☐ Set up your teacher account and class

☐ Explore the Journal tab and Add + button

☐ Play with Seesaw Learning Tools

☐ Learn to use the Seesaw Library and create activities

☐ Teach students how to use Seesaw

☐ Establish Seesaw routines

☐ Connect families on the Seesaw app

☐ Explore advanced skills and resources

Set Up Steps

Free Seesaw Teachers

Step 1

Create your account and class

I'm a Teacher

- Download the Seesaw app or go to app.seesaw.me
- Click I'm a Teacher > Sign up
- Follow the prompts

Step 2

Add students

⊕ Students

- Click + Students (bottom right)
- Follow the prompts

Seesaw Teachers

New Teachers

Activate your new account

Activate your account

This activation link expires in 14 days, please activate your account now.

- Check your email to activate your new teacher account

Existing Teachers

Update your account email

Email: yourschoolemail@school.edu

Update Email

- In Account Settings, ensure your email adress is your school email

That's it! Your admin creates classes and adds students.

Watch a step-by-step tutorial

Free Seesaw

seesaw.pub/QuickStart

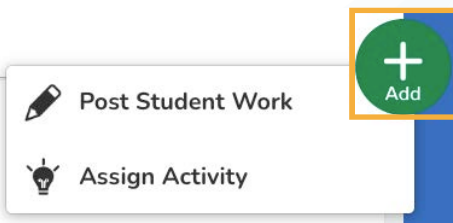**Seesaw for Schools**

seesaw.pub/S4SQuickStart

Navigate the Journal Tab

A.k.a your default view when you sign in to Seesaw.

Journal

The **Journal tab** is where learning lives.

- **Journal feed:** See recent posts by all students in the order they're posted.
- **Student view:** Click on a student's name on the right to see posts by student.
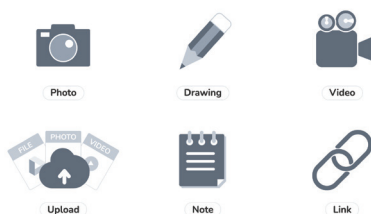
Post Student Work

Assign Activity

Add

The green **Add + button** is your control center.

- **Post Student Work:** Capture learning moments and tag select students or the whole class.
- **Assign Activity:** Access the Resource Library to find, create, and assign Seesaw activities.

Messages

Communicate with students, families, and other staff using **Seesaw Messages**.

- Find out more in the **Messages Quick Start Guide**

Photo   Drawing   Video

Upload   Note   Link

Seesaw Learning Tools give students multimodal ways to capture and deepen their learning in ways that work best for them.

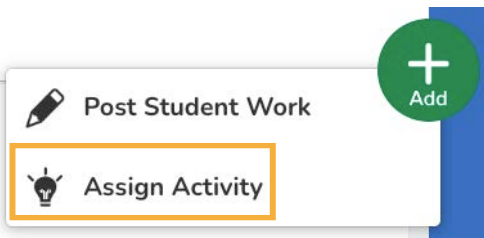- **Tools include:** photo, video, audio recording, drawing, labels, collage, links, uploads, and more!

Review

All student posts require **teacher approval.**

- **Click Review:** When there are posts to approve, a red bar appears in the Journal tab. Approve, Send Back*, or Delete posts.
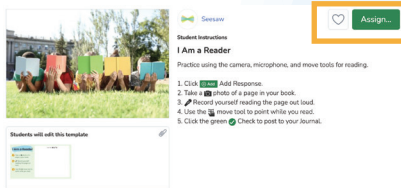
*Send Back is a Premium feature.

How to Use Activities

Seesaw activities open new possibilities! Use ready-to-assign activities or create your own to support multidimensional learning experiences.
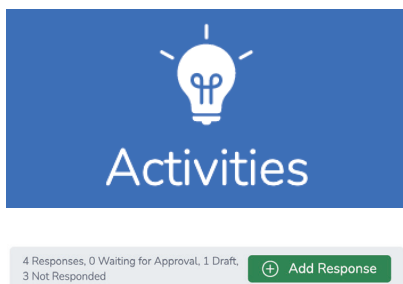
Get to the Resource Library: Click the Add + button > Assign Activity.

- **My Library tab:** Where all of your saved, modified, and created Activities live.
- **Seesaw Library tab:** Where you can find high-quality, standards aligned lessons
- **School & District Library tab:** Where Seesaw for Schools customers collaborate with colleagues.
- **Community Library tab:** Where you'll find ready-to-assign Activities by Seesaw and our Ambassadors.

Click on any activity to save it to My Library, Assign to your class, and more!

- Click the **heart** to save.
- Click **Assign** to assign to classes and/or select students.
- Click the **[...]** on the bottom right for more options!

Teachers and students find assigned Activities in the **Activities tab**.

- **Teacher sections:** Assigned, Scheduled, Archived, and Calendar.
- **Student sections:** To Do, In Progress, Done, and Calendar.
- Click **Add Response** to complete an activity.
- Teachers click the **grey bar** to see a summary of student responses and review and approve posts.
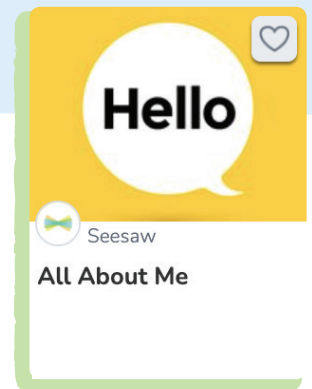
Student Challenges

Teach students essential Seesaw skills. In 6 quick lessons, students learn to sign in, post to their Journals, respond to activities, and use Learning Tools. Click on the activity link to Assign it. Don't miss the Lesson Plan!

Lesson 1: Introduction to Seesaw and Signing In
30 minutes

Students will get excited about Seesaw, sign in, and respond to their first Seesaw activity using the drawing, camera, and microphone tools.

1. **Watch:** 'What is Seesaw? For Students' and 'How to Sign In'. Get the videos – **seesaw.pub/GSVideos**
2. **Student Practice:** Students sign in. Circulate to support.
3. **Model the Activity:** Click the Activities tab > Add Response > Use the drawing, camera, and microphone tools > Click the green Check.
4. **Student Practice:** Complete 'All About Me'. Get the Activity – **seesaw.pub/GSAbout**

Lesson 2: Seesaw for Reading
20 minutes

Students will practice using the camera, microphone, and move tools for reading.

1. **Review:** How to sign in.
2. **Student Practice:** Students sign in. Circulate to support.
3. **Model the Activity:** Click the Activities tab > Add Response > Use the camera, microphone, and move tools > Click the green Check.
4. **Student Practice:** Complete 'I Am a Reader'. Get the Activity – **seesaw.pub/GSReading**
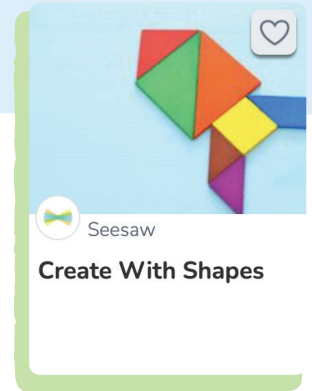
Getting Started with Seesaw Grades PreK–2

Lesson 3: Seesaw for Math
15 minutes

Students will practice using the move and microphone tools in math.

1. **Model the Activity:** Click the Activities tab > Add Response > Use the move and microphone tools > Click the green Check.

2. **Student Practice:** Complete 'Create With Shapes'.
   Get the Activity – **seesaw.pub/GSShapes**
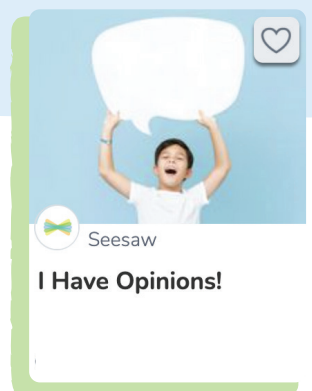
Seesaw
Create With Shapes

Lesson 4: Seesaw for Writing
15 minutes

Students will practice using the erase and video tools for writing.

1. **Model the Activity:** Click the Activities tab > Add Response > Use the erase and video tools > Click the green Check.

2. **Student Practice:** Complete 'I Have Opinions!'.
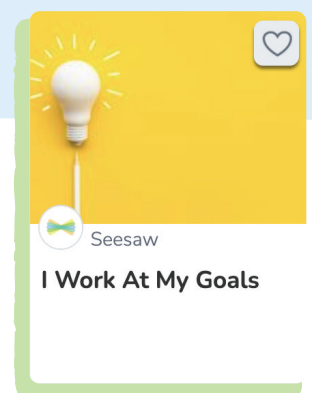   Get the Activity – **seesaw.pub/GSOpinions**

Seesaw
I Have Opinions!

Lesson 5: Seesaw for Social Emotional Learning
15 minutes

Students will practice using the drawing, microphone, video, and Drafts* tools to set goals.

1. **Model the Activity:** Click the Activities tab > Add Response > Use drawing, microphone, and video tools > Click Draft* or the green Check.

2. **Student Practice:** Complete 'I Work at My Goals'.
   Get the Activity – **seesaw.pub/GSWorkatGoals**

Seesaw
I Work At My Goals

*Drafts is a Premium feature.

Lesson 6: Post with the Green Add + Button
15 minutes

Students will practice adding to their Seesaw Journals using the green Add + button.

1. **Say:** Sometimes, you might want to post to your Seesaw Journal when I haven't assigned an Activity.

2. **Model:** Sign in as a student > Click the Journal tab > Click the Green Add + button > Select a tool > Use Learning tools > Click the green Check.

3. **Student Practice:** Use the green Add + button to choose a Learning Tool and post to their Journal.

Get a printable poster of student instructions on the next page!

Find all Getting Started Activities in the Seesaw Library

PK-2 Activities
seesaw.pub/GSAPK-2

3-5 Activities
seesaw.pub/GSA3-5

6+ Activities
seesaw.pub/GS6Up
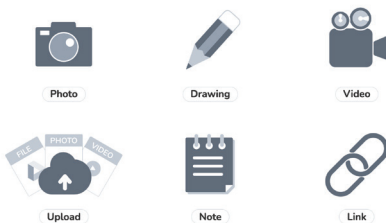
Seesaw It!

Open Seesaw and sign in

Click the Journal tab

Click the green Add + button

Choose a Learning Tool

Click the green Check

Implement Seesaw

Set Up Classroom Routines

Effective integration of technology transforms learning. Seesaw routines ensure students have regular access to meaningful learning experiences.

Centers or Stations

① Designate one center a Seesaw center

② Set up devices with the Class app or bookmark app.seesaw.me

③ Teach a mini lesson

④ Assign a Seesaw activity that reinforces learning

Independent Practice

① Teach a mini lesson

② Assign a Seesaw activity that reinforces learning

③ While students complete the activity on their own, meet with small groups or one-on-one

Social-Emotional Learning

① Designate time to focus on SEL (leverage transitions like arrival, after recess, or between subjects)

② Assign a Seesaw activity that reinforces SEL skills

Seesaw Activities to Try

Capture hands-on learning, like **reading fluency** or work with **math manipulatives**

Give students opportunities to share their **voice** and **choice**

Start with a **check in** that asks students to name and reflect on their feelings

Support Hybrid or Remote Learning

Students use **Home Learning Codes** to sign in to the Seesaw app from home.

① Teach a mini lesson in person or virtually

② Assign Seesaw activities for students to complete asynchronously at home

③ Use synchronous in-person or virtual time to address misconceptions or extend learning

Seesaw Activities to Try

Leverage **family or community members and the home environment** to create powerful home-school-world connections

Family View of the Seesaw App

The best predictor of student success is family involvement. The Seesaw app engages families as active partners in their child's learning.

Seesaw takes privacy seriously. Connected family members only see their own child's learning. **Learn more at web.seesaw.me/privacy.**

Home

The **Home tab** shows all recent posts in the order they're posted.

- Family members can **like or comment** on their child's posts. (If enabled by the teacher in Class Settings.)
- Families **see posts from all of their children using Seesaw** in one place!

Journals

The **Journals tab** allows families to see posts by child or class (vs. all posts in the Home tab).

Messages

The **Messages tab** is where families communicate privately with the teacher.

- Family members **receive Announcements** and reply with **private messages**.
- Family members reply with **text, audio, or Seesaw tools**.

View Translation

In the Family app, all typed text can be **translated in one click**. Language barrier? Not with Seesaw.

- Families with devices set to a language other than English will see the option to **'View Translation' on all typed text** and can reply in their preferred language.

Invite Families to Connect

Step 1: Click + Families

⊕ Families

Step 2: Send Invites in Seesaw

Printed PDF Invites

so **Print Invites** or

- Click Print Invites
- Choose a language
- Download and print your class set
- Families scan the QR code and follow the prompts

Text or Email Invites

Email or Mobile Number

- Enter family members' phone numbers or email addresses
- Click Invite Families
- Families receive a text message or email, click the link, and follow the prompts

Meet Families Where They Are

Leverage In-Person Events

1. Print PDF invites
2. Share why you're using Seesaw
3. Help families connect
4. Walk families through key Family app features

Motivate Families with a Post

1. Send text or email invites
2. Have students create a Seesaw post
3. Students tell families they have to connect to see the post

Bridge Technology Gaps

1. Help families create an email account to use
2. Help families download Seesaw or access on a web browser
3. Share community spaces with free internet

Most importantly, follow up with families until they connect!

Find resources to share at web.seesaw.me/resources-for-teachers

Ready for More?

You did it! You mastered the Seesaw basics. With these skills, there's so much you can do in Seesaw - **and it's just the start**. Check out the free resources below to take Seesaw to the next level.

Deepen Learning with Advanced Resources

Resources for Teachers
Everything you need to transform learning in your classroom.
web.seesaw.me/resources-for-teachers

Free Training
Watch quick on-demand tutorials or join us live for special events.
Seesaw Learning Hub: learn.seesaw.me
Webinars: web.seesaw.me/training

Help Center
Find answers to common questions or submit a help ticket.
help.seesaw.me

Seesaw Community
Connect with global educators and grow in a supportive environment.
web.seesaw.me/pioneer-program

Connect with us!