Blackboard 9.1 is Coming in May

by Jennifer Becker

This May, JCHS will upgrade from our current version of Blackboard 8 to Blackboard Learn™, Release 9.1. This change will give professors great new tools to encourage learning, and it will offer students even more ways to take advantage of the latest technology. These new resources will be available starting in the summer term.

Blackboard Learn 9.1 is the latest step in the technology corporation’s goal to “make learning more engaging,” with the ultimate goal of delivering “a more effective learning experience.” JCHS is working to achieve these same goals, and this latest upgrade is an important step in this process.

To complete this upgrade, Blackboard 8 will be unavailable starting at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8th. Blackboard 9.1 be available by 8:00 a.m. the following morning. Though spring classes will not be affected by this upgrade, members of organizations will need to be especially mindful of the shift: Changes to an organization’s content that are made after April 29, 2012 may not get copied over to the new system.

To get the newest tools to our students in the easiest way possible, JCHS’s Academic Technologies team has done their best to smooth this transition, first by ensuring that the new Blackboard system will use the same web address as before: http://blackboard.jchs.edu. This means that existing favorites or bookmarks will still work and will not need to be updated. Furthermore, all usernames will be the same.

Logging in will be just as easy as before, although you will need a new password to access Blackboard 9.1. Because your old password will not carry over, Academic Technologies will email a new, randomly-generated password to your OneJeff email account on or around May 9, 2012.

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Celebrate National Public Health Week

by Diana Willeman-Buckelew

Jefferson College wants you to be healthy—and on Wednesday, April 4th, you’ll have one more fun way to do it! On that day from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., students from IDS 355 (Principles of Public Health) will be in the CRCH lobby to host a celebration of National Public Health Week (NPHW).

The theme of this year’s NPHW is “A Healthier America Begins Today: Join the Movement.” To celebrate this notion, the college’s fun and informative event will provide participants with important information while they play exciting games, win cool prizes, and enjoy healthy snacks.

Being a part of JCHS’s celebration is a great way for the college community to create a healthier nation. Together, we can encourage Americans and their communities to take preventive measures that can help improve their lives. After all, little steps can lead to big changes!

For more information about this event, please contact Diana Willeman-Buckelew, Associate Professor, Math & Sciences, at (540) 224-4491 or via email at DlWilleman@jchs.edu.

Learn more about NPHW at: www.nphw.org.
Blackboard 9.1

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If you have trouble with the new password, you may also use the “Forgot Your Password?” link located on the Blackboard 9.1 login page. Both the Username Option and the Email Address Option will work.

Notes from the LWC: Making Every Word Count

by Rase McCray

The LWC has seen a dramatic increase in students receiving feedback about a tricky issue: language economy. But how do you make your writing more efficient? The easiest way is to edit for “patterns of wordiness.”

First, delete redundant modifiers. In science writing, we commonly use phrases like “end result” to describe how the “final outcome” of our studies might affect “each individual.” In these phrases, cutting “end,” “final,” and “each” makes the language stronger.

Second, delete redundant categories. In this case, we don’t need to specify a category if a word already implies that category. All of us have said “orange in color” when simply “orange” will do. Or perhaps you’ve been asked to wait for a short “period of time” when only a short “period” would be enough.

Third, replace wordy expressions with single words. Science writers break this rule more than writers in other disciplines. Have you ever written “due to the fact that” or “for the reason that”—when you would have gotten your message across with “because”? Or perhaps you said “in order to” instead of “to.” And we’ve all gone to the movies “together with” our friends when we could have gone “with” them.

Finally, replace redundant word pairs with single words. You can start this task tonight when you call your significant other your “only” love instead of “one and only.” Or maybe when you turn in that paper, mention that it’s “finished” instead of telling everyone that the assignment is “over and done with.” And as a reward, feel free to eat “every” bite of dessert instead of “each and every.”

For more writing tips, make an appointment with the LWC today!

Upcoming Events

Chocolate Day Returns!

• Do you love chocolate? □ Yes □ No
• Do you love the library? □ Yes □ No
• Does thinking about eating chocolate in a library turn your knees to jelly? □ Yes □ No

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then come to the library on Tuesday, April 24th, at noon for a sweetly indulgent snack—we’ll go until we run out!

Only TWO Academic Skills Workshops left!

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FREE LUNCH PROVIDED!