The Bitmoji Office or Classroom - A Possibility for Healthcare Education?

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Recommended Citation
A Bitmoji Classroom or Office can be a more engaging way to organize and manage instructional resources.

Background
Nurse educators across New Mexico are teaching nursing course content online and are looking for fun ways to build community and engagement with learners. During 2020, the author has been investigating different online tools to share with nurse educators across the twelve New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC) nursing programs. After learning about the Bitmoji classrooms being utilized by K-12 educators, the author became curious about whether Bitmoji classrooms could be useful for nursing education. To trial this, the NMNEC (Bitmoji) Office was created for the 2020 Fall Virtual NMNEC Statewide Faculty Meeting and utilized as a way of sharing handouts and resources for faculty participants across twelve New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC) nursing programs.

Why set up a Bitmoji Office or Classroom?
Goal of K-12 Educators with a Bitmoji classroom is to create welcoming spaces for students.

Would this be helpful in online teaching for college students? Or for faculty? Or is it busy work to do what is already efficiently done on websites or through learning management systems (LMS)?

Setting out to see how labor intensive is setting up a Bitmoji Office or Classroom
You Tube tutorials work! A number of video tutorials are available. Used Bitmoji FUNdamentals! This ~42 minute recording provided an overview of creating virtual environments for students. This took the author approximately 6 hours working with tutorial to set up the NMNEC Bitmoji Office. Once built, it is easy to update.

Lessons Learned
When introducing a Bitmoji Classroom or Office for first time, doing a virtual demonstration would be helpful to facilitate engagement. Initially, visually interesting but until audience learned that there were links embedded in the picture, audience didn’t realize what was possible to access.

In a virtual environment, is efficient at sharing access to different types of information such as:
- Websites
- Conference or course documents
- Videos
This worked better than just a list of conference documents and a posted list of links to videos and websites.

Is creating a Bitmoji Office or Classroom good idea?
It depends...

For a one time event or usage, the time to learn and develop is a factor to consider.

The time to learn and develop is minimal if going to continually use the Bitmoji classroom or office and audience learns that the links will be continually updated.

In a virtual environment, this helps organize and manage instructional resources such as:
- Websites
- Conference or course documents
- Videos
This worked better than just a list of conference documents with either a posted list of links to videos and websites or posting links in a chat box. Everything is consolidated in one place or portal.

Ideas on how to use Bitmoji Classrooms or Offices?
- Provide an entry portal on a website or LMS page
- Deliver announcements
- Organize information in a newsletter
- Use as a Google meet or Zoom waiting screen
- Set up a video library in a LMS or website
- Other ideas? How creative do you feel???

And finally, does using a Bitmoji Classroom or Office need educational research?
Absolutely!
Anyone need an education research project???
Bitmoji Classroom Resources

Bitmoji Classrooms: Why Teachers Are Buzzing About Them
Catherine Gewertz
July 30, 2020

Bitmoji Craze for Educators
Private Facebook Group
https://www.facebook.com/groups/2568655663438916

Bitmoji FUNdamentals!
This ~42 minute recording provides an overview of creating virtual environments for students.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdMWiDWBN1U&feature=youtu.be

Bitmojis, Gifs, and Snaps in the Classroom? Oh My!
By Tierney King
July 29, 2019

Educators Turn to Bitmoji to Build Community and Engagement
Both fun and practical, Bitmoji classrooms are adding some levity to fall planning this year.
Emelina Minero
August 14, 2020

Jumping on the Bitmoji Classroom Train
Ronald Catlin
September 15, 2020
https://www.pbs.org/education/blog/jumping-on-the-bitmoji-classroom-train