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How do I sign up for a Canvas account as a parent?

Parents can sign up as an observer in Canvas. Observers can link their Canvas account to their student's account so they can see assignment due dates, announcements, and other course content. Observers can view the course content but cannot participate in the course.

This lesson is for parents who do not have a Canvas account and want to observe their students in their courses. In order to create a Canvas account, you will need the Canvas URL associated with the institution where your student is enrolled. If you do not know your institution's Canvas URL, contact the institution.

If you already have an account from your student's institution, log in to Canvas using the credentials given to you.

Notes:

- If the registration banner is not available in the login page, the institution has not enabled this feature. Please contact your student's institution for assistance. The registration banner is enabled through Canvas authentication.
- To observe a student, you must have a Student Pairing Code (see pg.5).
- Once you have an account, you may be able to view student information through the Canvas Parent app. Access to the Canvas Parent app is controlled by the student's institution. If you already have an account from your student's institution as an observer, you can always view student information through the Canvas Parent app.

Open Canvas URL



In a browser window, enter your institution's Canvas URL (mcsd.instructure.com).

Create Canvas Account

A screenshot of the Canvas login page for Muscogee County School District. The page has a grey background. In the top left is the school district logo. In the top right, a red-bordered box highlights the text "Parent of a Canvas User? Click Here For an Account". Below this are two white input fields: "GTID or E000000 or Parent Email" and "Password". Under the first field is a "Log In" button. Below the password field is a checkbox for "Stay signed in" and a link for "Forgot Password?". At the bottom, there are links for "Help", "Privacy Policy", "Acceptable Use Policy", "Facebook", and "Twitter", followed by the "INSTRUCTURE" logo.

Click the **Need a Canvas Account?** link.

Sign Up As a Parent (Free Account)

Enter Signup Details

The image shows a 'Parent Signup' form with the following fields and elements:

- 1**: Your Name input field.
- 2**: Your Email input field.
- 3**: Password input field.
- 4**: Re-enter Password input field.
- 5**: Student Pairing Code input field. A link 'What is a pairing code?' is located to the right of the field.
- 6**: A checkbox labeled 'You agree to the [terms of use](#) and acknowledge the [privacy policy](#).'
- 7**: The 'Start Participating' button.

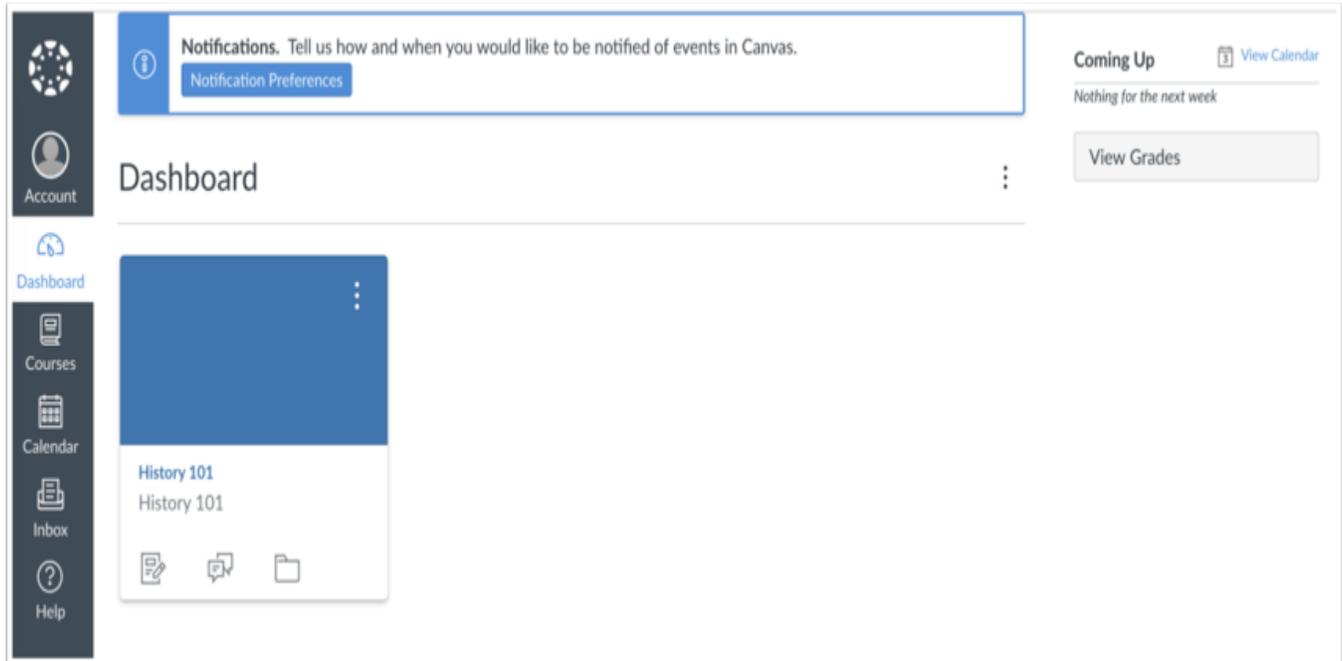
At the bottom right of the form, there are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Start Participating'.

Enter the following information:

1. Enter your name in the **Your Name** field.
2. Enter your email in the **Your Email** field.
3. Enter your password in the **Password** field.
4. Re-enter your password in the **Re-enter Password** field.
5. Enter a pairing code to link your account to your student in the **Student Pairing Code** field.
6. Agree to the terms of use by clicking the **You agree to the terms of use** checkbox.
7. Click the **Start Participating** button.

Note: Students can generate pairing codes from their User Settings. Depending on institution permissions, admins and instructors may also be able to generate pairing codes.

Begin Observing



The screenshot displays the Canvas LMS Dashboard. On the left is a dark sidebar with navigation icons for Account, Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, Inbox, and Help. The main content area features a 'Notifications' banner at the top with a 'Notification Preferences' button. Below this is the 'Dashboard' title and a large blue card for 'History 101' with a 'View Grades' button. To the right, a 'Coming Up' section shows 'Nothing for the next week' and a 'View Calendar' link.

Notifications. Tell us how and when you would like to be notified of events in Canvas.
[Notification Preferences](#)

Account

Dashboard

Coming Up [View Calendar](#)
Nothing for the next week
[View Grades](#)

History 101
History 101

[View Grades](#)

How do I generate a pairing code for an observer as a student?

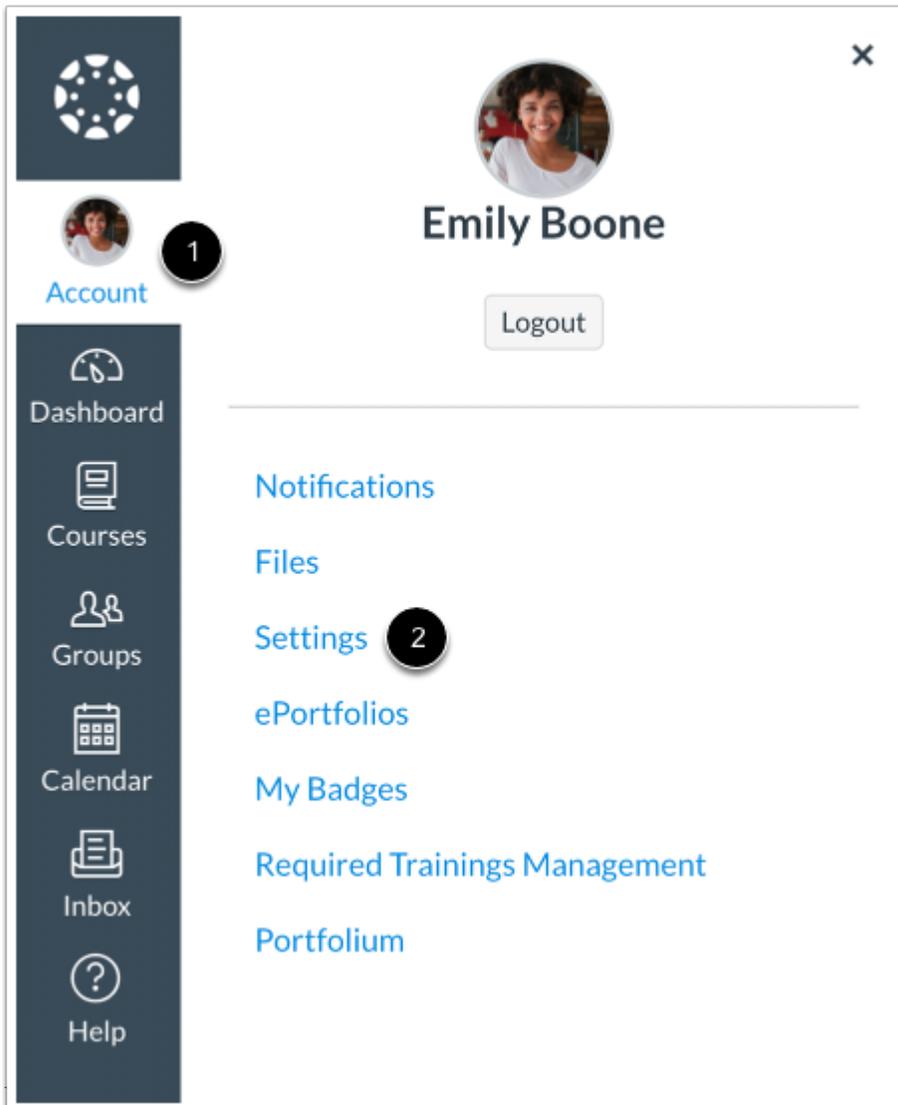
As a student, you can generate a pairing code to link an observer to your Canvas account. You must create a separate pairing code for each observer who wants to link to your account. .

An observer may be your parent, guardian, mentor, counselor, or another individual who needs to view your Canvas courses. Linked observers can view and participate in certain elements of your Canvas courses.

Notes:

- If you are an observer and want to generate a pairing code for a student, you will need to log in to the student's Canvas account and follow the steps in this lesson. After you have copied the pairing code, you can link to the student by entering the code in your User Settings.

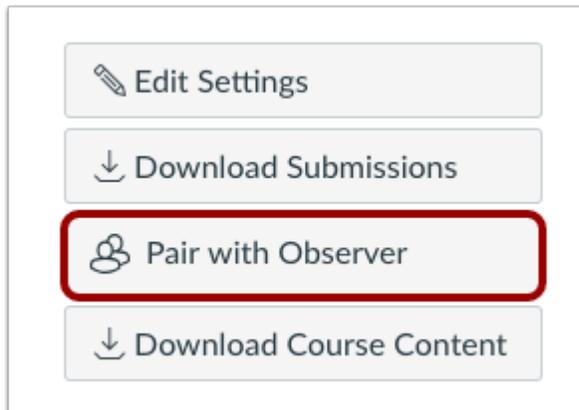
Open Settings



The screenshot displays the Canvas user interface. At the top left is a dark blue square with a white circular icon containing a grid of dots. Below it is a circular profile picture of a woman, with a blue 'Account' label and a black circle containing the number '1'. To the right is a larger circular profile picture of the same woman, with the name 'Emily Boone' below it and a 'Logout' button. A dark blue sidebar on the left contains icons and labels for 'Dashboard', 'Courses', 'Groups', 'Calendar', 'Inbox', and 'Help'. The main content area on the right lists several options: 'Notifications', 'Files', 'Settings' (with a black circle containing the number '2'), 'ePortfolios', 'My Badges', 'Required Trainings Management', and 'Portfolium'. A close button (an 'x' icon) is located in the top right corner of the interface.

In Global Navigation, click the **Account** link [1], then click the **Settings** link [2].

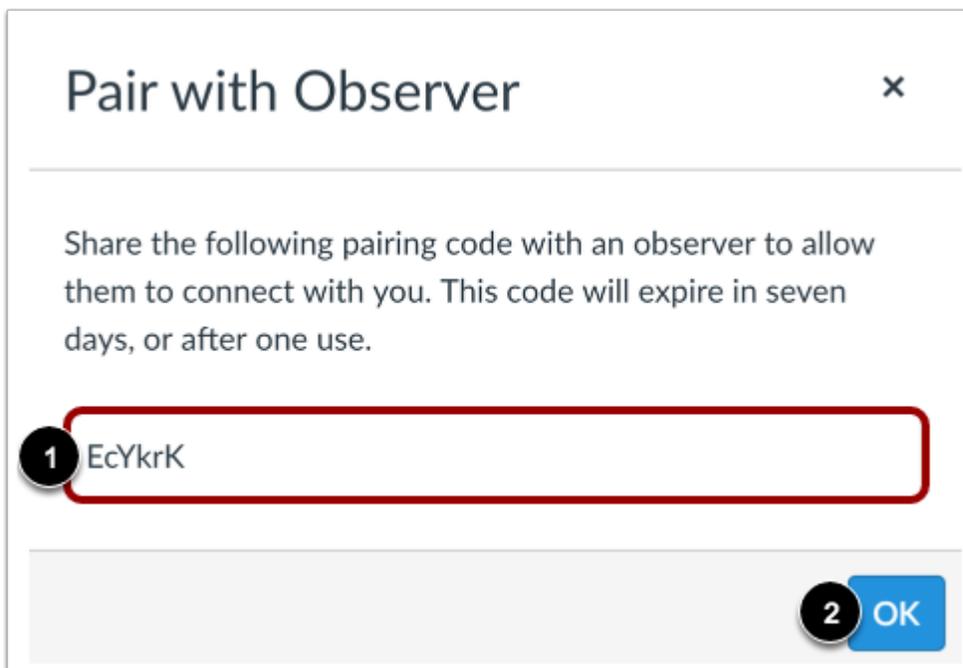
Pair with Observer



Click the **Pair with Observer** button.

Note: If the Pair with Observer button doesn't display in your User Settings, please contact your institution for assistance with pairing with an observer.

Copy Pairing Code



Copy the six-digit alphanumeric pairing code [1]. You will need to share the code with the observer who will link to your account. The pairing code will expire after seven days or its first use.

To close the window, click the **OK** button [2].

Note: Pairing codes are case sensitive.