

Technology in the Classroom – Kidblog

kidblog.org

Kidblog provides a secure classroom blogging community, where teachers have complete control over individual student blogs. Students do not need an email address as the teacher can set up individual accounts for each student. Login is simple; students can select their name from a drop down menu, enter a password and are ready to create and maintain their own mini-blogs. Teachers can also control who has access to the site, granting access only to students.

Step 1) Getting Started

- Creating a new account

Go to the Kidblog website at **kidblog.org**. On the home screen, click on **Create a Class!**



- Accessing an existing account

If you already created an account, click **Login** near the top of the screen and enter your Email address, Username or Class URL to log in to your account. For more details, go to page 7 of this guide.

Step 2) Create Your Free Kidblog Class

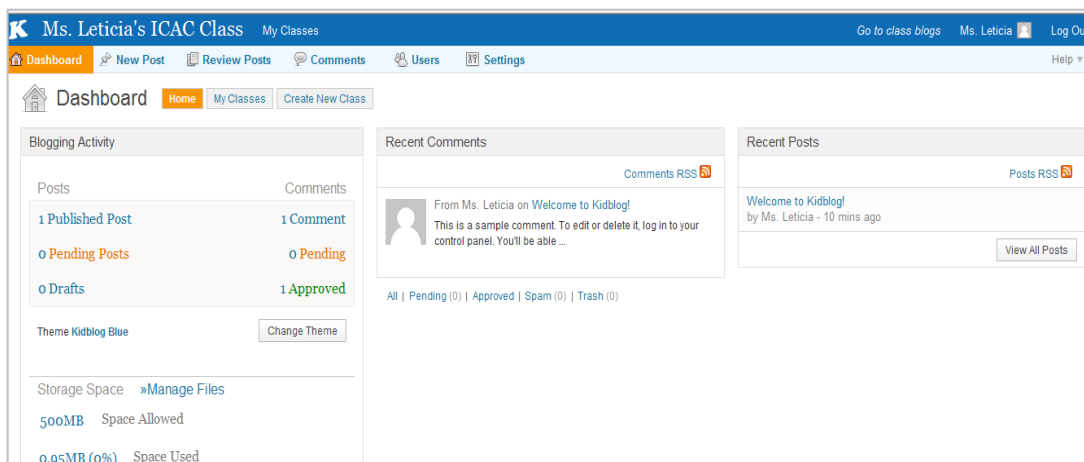
Fill out the following fields on the single-page form to create your free account.

- Teacher Name** – This will be the display name and username that you use to log into your class account. Your teacher name will be visible to your students.
 - Record your teacher name/display name here: _____
- Password**
 - Record your password here: _____
- Email** – You will receive all of your Kidblog class information at this email address. It does NOT have to be your school email address.
- Class Name** – The name of your class blog (e.g. ICAC, Smith's Science, etc.). You will have the option to create a blog for each different class that you teach. For example, you can have a blog for each science class that you teach as part of a departmentalized team (e.g. Smith's Science 1, Smith's Science II). The class name will be used as part of the web link to your class blog.

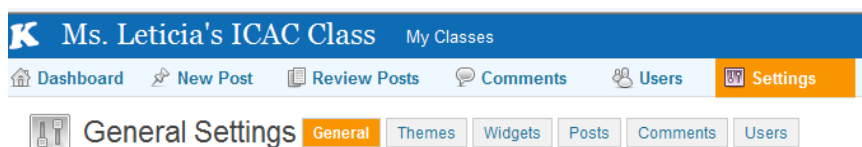
- e) **Verification Code** – Type in the following series of letters and numbers that you see to verify that you are human requesting a blog and not an automated spam program. If you need a new verification code, click on the link “Reload Image” for a new image.
 - f) When finished completing the form, click **Create Class**.
 - g) You will receive an email notification that your blog has been successfully created. In this email, you will also receive the link to view your blog. This link will be <http://kidblog.org/CLASSNAME/>, where CLASSNAME is the class name you chose above.
- Record your Kidblog login link here: _____

Step 3) Personalize Your Settings

Once you have successfully created your blog, you will be directed to the **Dashboard** tab of your **Control Panel**. The **Control Panel** is where you can create new posts, review student posts and comments, create users, and personalize your blog settings. The **Dashboard** provides you with a quick snapshot of recent blogging activity, comments and posts.



- a) To personalize your blog settings, click on the **Settings** tab.



- Under **General Settings**, you can view and edit general settings for your blog including Class Title, Class URL, Class Sign-up Code, Theme, Time Zone, SSL Login, Mobile Publishing and Date Format.
- SSL Login** – SSL stands for Security Sockets Layer. You can enable SSL to ensure extra security when sending information over your account.

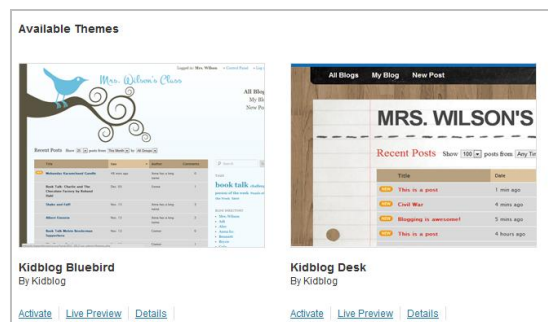
- **Mobile Publishing** - If you would like you or your students to publish their posts using an iPad, iPod Touch, iPhone or Android, you may enable Mobile Publishing. You will need to download the WordPress App on each device before you are able to publish. For download information and instructions, click on the iOS or Android link.

Mobile Publishing
(XML-RPC)

☒ Enable native mobile publishing via iPad, iPod Touch, iPhone and Android
(Requires the [iOS](#) or [Android](#) app)

Or you can visit, ios.wordpress.org or android.wordpress.org.

- On the General Settings page, click the “Save Changes” button to save the changes that you made.
- b) Under **Theme Settings**, you will be provided with a thumbnail preview of your current theme and a selection of other available blog themes. Click on the **Live Preview** link beneath each theme to preview that theme. The preview can be closed by clicking on **Cancel** in the upper left corner of the preview screen or you can click on **Save & Activate** if you are pleased with that theme. Once you are back on the Manage Themes screen, you also have the option of getting more details about each theme by clicking **Details** or directly choosing a theme without previewing it by clicking **Activate**.



- c) **Post Settings** – By publishing posts, your students will have the freedom to express themselves through their own blogs. However, these blogs will be part of a larger class blog, and you will have the ability to control each student’s content. Under **Post Settings**, you will be able to control who may read your students’ posts. You have the following options:
- All visitors - all posts will be public and anyone can read your students’ posts
 - Users in the following class(es) - only users (students and parents) that you create for your class can read your students’ posts. Users will need to log in to read posts.
 - Admin/Teacher only - only the blog administrator (you) or others users that you designate as teachers will be able to read your students’ post. This is the highest level of blog privacy.

You can also set the requirement that each student post must be approved by an Admin, Teacher, or Moderator before it appears on the class blog. You may also choose to receive an email notification whenever a student writes or publishes a blog post. These are great ways to monitor

student content. Click each box to select each desired option. Remember to click **Save Changes** when finished.

d) Under **Comment Settings**, you can control who is able to leave comments on your students' blog posts.

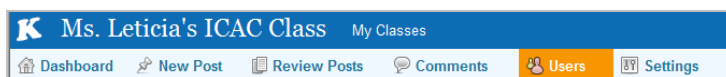
- All visitors – Anyone can leave comments on students' post
- Users from the following class(es) – Only users (students) that you have added to the class can leave comments on posts.
- Allow users with "Guest" role to leave comment – You can set up a guest account for parents to read and comment on their children's blog posts. Parents with guest access will need a password to leave comments.
- Admin/Teacher only – Only those with admin or teacher roles will be able to leave comments

You have the option to require that each comment must be approved by an Admin, Teacher, or Moderator before it appears on the class blog. You may select to receive an email notification whenever a new comment is submitted or awaiting approval. Other comment settings include allowing rich text comments, such as links or images. Click on each box to select your options. Click **Save Changes** when finished.

e) **User Settings** –You can set some user privileges for teachers, moderators, and students within **User Settings**. Remember to click **Save Changes** when finished.

Step 4) Create Your Class

Under the **Users** tab, you can view, add, and manage student and parent users in your class.

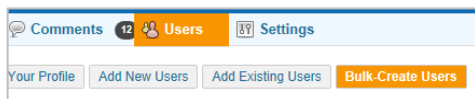


a) **To add users one-by-one** – Click the orange button, **Add New Users** at the top to add new users to your Kidblog class. Provide a display name and password for a student in your classroom. Select "Student" as the role. Click on the **Add New User** button at the bottom when finished.

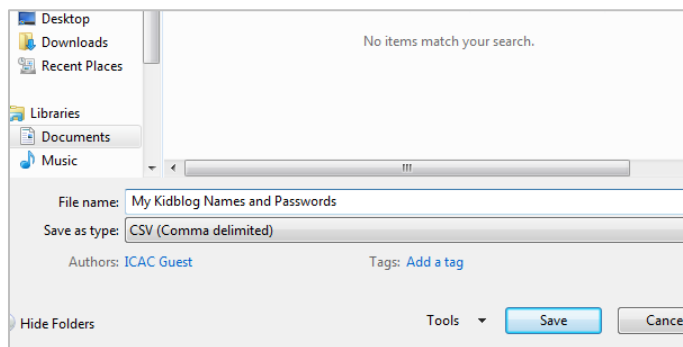
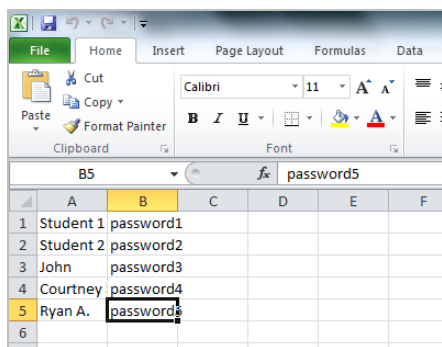
A screenshot of the 'Add New Users' form. At the top, there's a header 'Add New Users' with several tabs: 'All Users', 'Your Profile', 'Add New Users' (active), 'Add Existing Users', and 'Bulk-Create Users'. Below the header, the form is titled 'Add New User'. It contains three input fields: 'Display Name' with the value 'John', 'Password' with masked characters '*****', and 'Role' with a dropdown menu showing 'Student'. At the bottom left of the form is a blue button labeled 'Add New User'.

Create a user for each student in your class. Choose passwords that will be easy for your students to remember. You can change any user's password at any time.

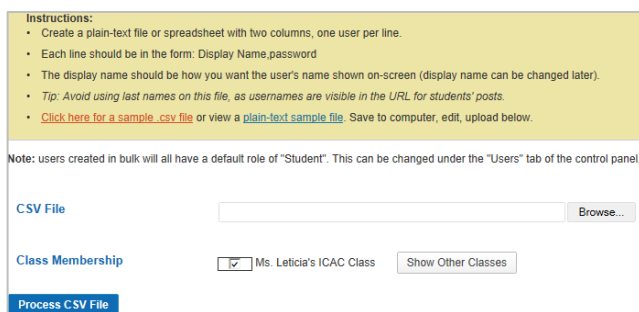
- b) **To add all students at the same time** –Click on **Bulk-create users**.



Using the template provided, type the students' names in column A and the passwords in Column B. Save as a CSV file by selecting **CSV (Comma delimited)** in the drop down menu.



After you save the file, click on **Browse** to import the users into Kidblog. Click **Process CSV File** to add the users to your blog.



You can also create additional users with one of five different roles:

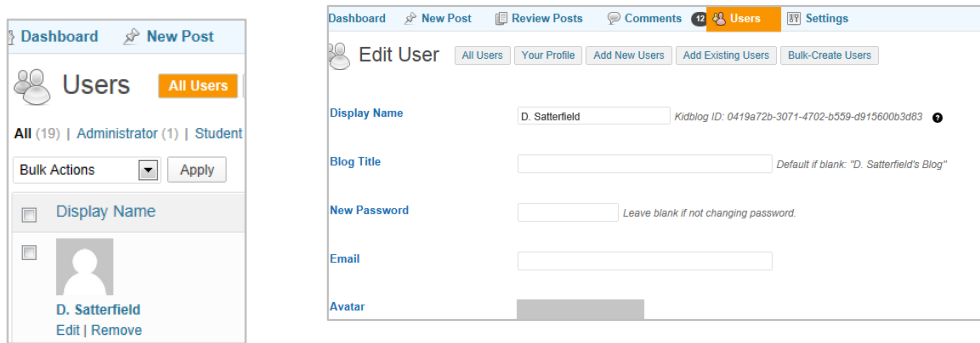
- **Student** – Students are allowed to publish posts and leave comments. They cannot alter other user accounts.
- **Administrator** – Administrators have the highest level of user access. There must be at least one Administrator for every Kidblog class. **If you set up your Kidblog class, you are by default the Administrator for that class.**
- **Teacher** – Teachers have some of the same access as Administrators, but cannot edit Administrator accounts. You can create Teacher roles to have more help managing the classroom blog.

- **Moderator** – Moderators have the ability to approve and edit all posts and comments. Moderators do not have permission to alter student accounts.
- **Guest** – Guests have a password and can log into your class blogs; **they do not have access to publish posts**. Guest accounts are a great way to invite families to view your class's blogging activities. You can choose to provide a single Guest username and password for all of the families in your class

Click on **All Users** to see a list of all of the added users to your Kidblog class. Each added users will have a display name (the username you created) and a unique login/Kidblog ID.

c) **To edit a student's password**

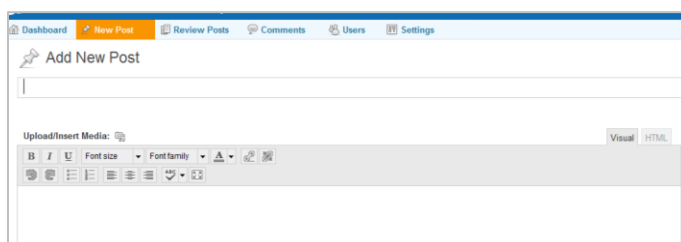
Click on a display name to edit the profile for that user. You can edit the student's display name, blog title, password, avatar, and theme. Click **Update User** when finished. You can allow students also have the capability to edit their profiles.



d) **To edit your profile** - Click on **Your Profile** button and follow the same steps as above.

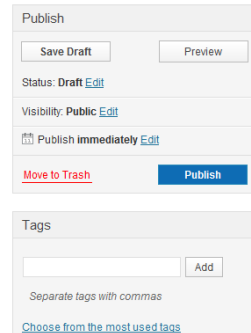
Step 5) Start Blogging! Let's create your first blog post!

- Click on the **New Post** tab on the top of the screen.
- Give your new post a title in the box at the top.
- There are two post editing modes:
 - **Visual** – The Visual mode contains formatting tools similar to Microsoft Word, such as **bold**, *italics*, underline, font size, type, and color.
 - **HTML** – This mode allows you to create a post using HTML code. You can also embed HTML code from other websites.
- Type the text of your post in the editor box.
- You have can upload or insert images, video, audio and other media files including PDF, PowerPoint, Excel, and Word documents into your post.



In the publish box on the right, you can

- Save as a draft to finish working on at a later date
- Preview your post on your class blog
- Set the visibility to public, password protected, or private
- Choose publish immediately or at a future date



Publish

Save Draft Preview

Status: Draft [Edit](#)

Visibility: Public [Edit](#)

Publish immediately [Edit](#)

[Move to Trash](#) [Publish](#)

Tags

[Add](#)

Separate tags with commas

[Choose from the most used tags](#)

- f) As you and your students create more posts, you can review them all under the **Review Posts** tab. Here is where you can approve and edit student posts. As you move your mouse cursor over the title of each post, you will have the option to approve, edit, trash, and view each post.
- g) Click on the **Comments** tab to view and approve all user comments.
- h) Check out your blog by clicking on **Go to class blogs** at the top of the screen. This will take you to a list of all recent blog posts from all users.

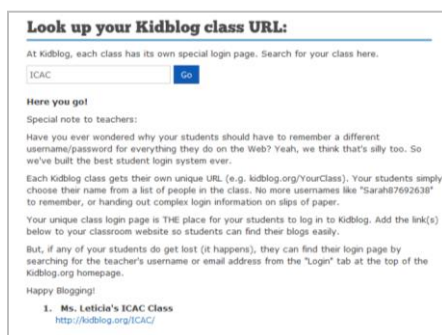


Step 6) How to Access the Blog with Students

You and your students find your blog the exact same way. If you misplace the URL/login link for your blog (see page 2), follow the directions below:

- a) Go to your kidblog.org
- b) Click **Login** at the top right of the screen.
- c) Type in the name of your class or the email address you used to create the blog.

Kidblog will display any class linked to your account. Click on the blue link to access your Kidblog.



Look up your Kidblog class URL:

At Kidblog, each class has its own special login page. Search for your class here.

ICAC [Go](#)

Here you go!

Special note to teachers:

Have you ever wondered why your students should have to remember a different username/password for everything they do on the Web? Yeah, we think that's silly too. So we've built the best student login system ever.

Each Kidblog class gets their own unique URL (e.g., kidblog.org/YourClass). Your students simply choose their name from a list of people in the class. No more usernames like "Sarah07692638" to remember, or handing out complex login information on slips of paper.

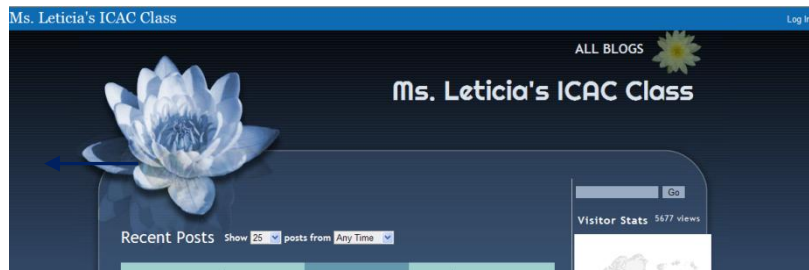
Your unique class login page is THE place for your students to log in to Kidblog. Add the link(s) below to your classroom website so students can find their blogs easily.

But, if any of your students do get lost (it happens), they can find their login page by searching for the teacher's username or email address from the "Login" tab at the top of the Kidblog.org homepage.

Happy Blogging!

1. Ms. Leticia's ICAC Class
<http://kidblog.org/ICAC/>

- d) Now you and the students will see your Kidblog page. However, your students will still need to login to interact with the class blog. Click **Log in** in the top right of the blog page.



- e) Select your username from the drop down menu. There will be a user name for every user you added to your class, including yourself. Enter the password that was created for each user and click **Log In**.



- f) Now that you (or your students) are logged in, you can click on one of the posts to view or create a new post.

