OLTD 504 Reflection of Evidence #1 Learning Management System Build

I have chosen my Learning Management System build for one piece of evidence from OLTD 504. The LMS build was done in Canvas Instructure to provide students with a structured area to follow a course by accessing course information, collaborating with other students, submitting work as well as accessing assessments and calendar. The course I developed was a Grade 5 Math unit on fractions. Experimenting with an LMS as a teacher was eye opening because I had to follow what was available to me. There wasn't much room to get creative except within my assignments. It was very structured and I spent many hours learning to navigate the system to accurately set up my course. I unfortunately had to delete my course and restart as I added work from the Commons and it overloaded my course with too much unneeded/unnecessary information. I could see that it would be beneficial to new online learners to provide structure in one area. As a teacher, it would also be a good way to keep everyone in one place to easily monitor learner progress.

The OLTD course outcome I link this assignment to is: demonstrate basic competency with design and implementation within a variety of LMS environments and tools. Having to create my own course within an LMS I had never experienced as a student was a huge learning curve for me. My only experience was with D2L when we first started in OLTD 501. I am a learner who loves structure but I did not love to navigate in D2L. I loved that all my information, assignments and communication was happening in one area because it felt safe. I was not ready to venture into the non-LMS world. I can understand how someone who has more experience with technology may not like the confinements of an LMS. For my own build, it was a challenge as a teacher to find assignments that would engage the learner and move them forward in their learning. I considered the CoI (Community of Inquiry) model to ensure I included the teacher, social and cognitive presences in my build. I created areas for students to collaborate on work as well as comment and give feedback to each other. I appreciated the gradebook option in the Canvas LMS as it gave me a clear view of student progress with assignments. This LMS also let me keep track of the activities that students were engaging in by sending me notifications.

Being able to design and implement a successful LMS environment takes time and consideration for the learners. It is important to make sure the learner is provided with a clear navigation area to access announcements, content, assignments, assessments, calendar and collaborative spaces. In my current F2F experience of implementing technology in the classroom using IPads and Chrome books to show learning, I have to clearly set expectations for my students as well as give them time to experiment and learn the tools to use. As an online educator, I would definitely make sure to peruse the LMS with my learners to make sure they understood the expectations and knew how to properly access the course to ensure success and learning. I would also encourage them to reach out to each other for help and support.