WordPress in the Secondary School

WordPress is most applicable to students in upper level education courses. There are many ways that teachers in a secondary education classroom can incorporate WordPress into their daily lesson plans. One common use is blogging. These blogs can be used for discussion among not only the students, but also people outside of the classroom, from all over the world. Three common ways to use WordPress to help with daily lessons and homework are:

- **Post a homework question**
  After the teacher posts a question; each student is required to write at least a one-paragraph response. The teacher may also require that each student respond to other students' comments as well.

- **Start a discussion**
  The teacher may start a discussion by posting a question. Then his/her students are required to post a minimum number of responses throughout the week or over the course of a unit.

- **Have students post discussion questions for tomorrow's class**
  The teacher can create an open blog in which students can freely ask questions to other students and to the teacher. It is important that this stays school related. This is a really good opportunity for the class to clear up any confusion they may have over topics they do not understand. This is nice because it does not take up class time and both the students and teacher can explain things in different ways to help clear things up.

As with any other internet program, safety of the students is always a concern. Cathy, an 8th grade English teacher uses WordPress to incorporate blogging into her classroom. She is aware of some of the safety issues and possible inappropriate usage that may be encountered while using a blog as a part of her lesson. WordPress allows teachers to help monitor and control what the students are saying. Teachers can also choose to limit the people that have access to their blogs. These are all things that should be considered before creating a class blog on WordPress.
"A security system that is built into my WordPress blog is a moderation clause. All the responses show up in my email for moderation before it ever gets posted online. That way, if a comment is not appropriate, I can email the student and explain what they need to do to make their response better, and then I can delete their incomplete response. This means that when I give the assignment, I need to be checking my email so that I can have a fast turnaround time on the blog. The students learn from each other, even if they are in different periods" - Cathy, 8th grade English teacher

This is an example of a secondary education lesson plan that includes the use of WordPress. Lesson plan is adapted from: http://www.lessonplanet.com/standards/browse/298846

Image sources:
http://www.girls.worthschool.org.uk/images/info/fees/student-computer.jpg

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Each student will be able to analyze characters’ traits by what the characters say about themselves in narration, dialogue, and soliloquy (when they speak aloud to themselves).</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learning Environment</td>
<td>Each student will be working independently on his/her own computer in the school's computer lab.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description of Students</td>
<td>The students participating in this lesson will be sophomores in high school who are enrolled in a literature course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Standards</td>
<td>10.3.4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Materials | • A copy of "Mother to Son" by Langston Hughes for each student  
• Computers  
• WordPress account for each student and the teacher |
| Procedure | 1. Before the discussion, each student should read a copy of "Mother to Son"  
2. Each student should log into his/her WordPress account  
3. Each student will choose one character to analyze based on what the character says about himself/herself in narration, dialogue, and soliloquy  
4. Each student will post their analysis on WordPress |
| Evaluation | The teacher will grade the students based on his/her analysis of the character they chose. |