

September, 2017

To Grades Five & Six Diamond Parents,

At Diamond Elementary we are continually striving for innovative and engaging ways to educate our students that are relevant to their current lives as well as their futures. As many of you know, following the arrival of the new BC Curriculum last year in September 2016, we began using the online teaching platform, Edmodo. We have found it to be hugely beneficial to our teaching and the students' learning.

Detailed below is further information on what Edmodo is, why we've chosen to use it, and what parents/students can expect when using this technology.

What is Edmodo?

Edmodo is a digital platform based on the ideas of social media and adapted for safe and secure use in an educational setting. It therefore allows students to not only further develop their learning, but they also become accustomed to social media in a safe, supported and teacher-controlled environment. Students are able to express both their learning and their 'technological voice' through Edmodo.

Teachers can assign and assess learning opportunities, be it either homework or in class, allowing for direct and timely feedback. Furthermore, students and teachers share an 'interactive classroom', where ideas and tips can be shared, with effective communication via both student-teacher and student-student. Edmodo is completely safe, as the teacher sees and controls everything that is posted, while parents can also join the site and become even more engaged with their child's learning and progress.

Why use Edmodo?

Edmodo is a great opportunity to allow learning to be taken beyond the classroom, as students are able share their thoughts and their work real-time with teachers and peers. At Diamond, our educational goal is to enrich and challenge students' minds and, in this case, the Edmodo technology is a great way to facilitate that outside of the classroom. It allows teacher-student communication to be even more effective, efficient, and progress can be more easily observed by everyone.

What are the expectations of using Edmodo?

Assignments:

Due to the ease of editing and giving feedback on computers, we encourage students in grade 6 to submit most homework assignments on Edmodo; however, it should be noted that students are not obligated to complete their work online (work can always be completed by hand on paper). When homework is submitted via Edmodo, students should take their time to ensure they have uploaded the correct file. Teachers will give feedback to students in class, online, or both, and students are expected to act on the suggestions and recommendations in order to strengthen their skills.

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Frequency/Consistency:

Grade 5 students will be guided through Edmodo activities in class and will be informed when they are required to access it outside of class time. Frequency will slowly increase as the year progresses.

Students in grade 6 are encouraged to access Edmodo preferably on a daily basis in order to keep up with any messages and class announcements. There is also the opportunity to continue contributing to our online community through helping each other with homework queries, discussing reading/books, sharing interesting links/videos related to lessons, etc.

Please note that Edmodo is being/will be used in these ways for the following Grade levels:

- Grade 5 – General Classroom Notices and Reminders, LA/Social Studies information and discussions, Some Math and Choir/Music Activities
- Grade 6 – Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Drama, Health, Music/Choir, ADST, Class Discussions/Votes

If you have any questions and/or feedback regarding the use of Edmodo at Diamond School, please don't hesitate to come and talk to your child's homeroom teacher.

As always, thanks for your ongoing support!

Teachers of Grades Five & Six