

October 15, 2018

To the Parents of Diamond Grades Five & Six,

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 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 allows students to further develop their learning and also become accustomed to social media in a safe, supported, and teacher-controlled environment. Students are able to express their learning and their 'technological voice' through Edmodo.

Teachers can assign and assess learning opportunities, such as homework or in class activities, allowing for direct and timely feedback. In this 'interactive classroom' ideas and tips can be shared, encouraging effective communication between both student and teacher as well as with peers. Edmodo is completely safe, as the teacher sees and controls everything that is posted. Parents can also join the site and become even more engaged with their child's learning and progress. If you would like to know how to join Edmodo, please speak to either James or Sam.

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 in 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 we can more easily observe the student's progress.

What are the expectations for using Edmodo?

Grade 5:

Grade 5 students will be introduced to Edmodo in the coming week. Their use of Edmodo in class will gradually increase at a pace suitable for all in the coming months. Grade 5 students will also be informed when they are required to access it outside of class time, with the frequency slowly increasing as the year progresses and more learning takes place via Edmodo.

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Grade 6:

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.

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 from the teacher
- LA/Social Studies information, webpage links and moderated discussions
- Some teacher-led Math and Choir/Music Activities

Grade 6 –

- A variety of class activities, educational information and assignments in the following subjects - Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Drama, Health, Music/Choir, ADST
- Class Discussions/Votes
- General Classroom Notices and Reminders from the teacher

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 James or Sam.

As always, thanks for your ongoing support!

Teachers of Grades Five & Six