Edmodo: A White Paper

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
EDUC 651: Connecting Technology & Curriculum

Edmodo

A White Paper

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Defined:

Edmodo is a social networking website used for educational purposes. The Edmodo application is much like the commonly used Facebook website. Like Facebook, Edmodo is a site designed to keep people in touch with those who have similar interests and goals. Edmodo creates an online environment for teachers and students to stay connected in an educational setting. This online learning space creates a secure environment for a class to share ideas, files, and assignments through mobile access and messaging.

Access Information:

Edmodo is free to use and is available to the public. Teachers can log-on to www.edmodo.com and register for a free account using an email address.

Overview:

Edmodo has several uses in the classroom. The site can be used to create and assess assignments, maintain privacy of student grades, and provide parents easy access to their child’s grades and upcoming projects. With the calendar feature, teachers can keep an up-to-date schedule of events and reminders. This also benefits students by allowing them to work ahead if they turn in an assignment early or if they will be missing work due to an absence. Edmodo also gives teachers a way to organize quality resources for students to use. Making these available to all students cuts out time they would have to use searching for them on the internet. Being able to review and share information within a secure network allows students the option to work in groups to research areas of their interest.

How to Use:

To register for an account, teachers should log-on to the above website and click “I’m a Teacher”. A screen will appear to be filled out, asking for information including name, email, password, and username.
Once the information has been entered, click submit and an account has been created. Once the account has been started, Edmodo will generate a code for your classroom. This code can be given to your students or anyone you wish to have access to your online classroom.

Once logged in, there are several tabs that can be used as resources for your new classroom. One feature that can be used is the “wall”. This allows others to write notes on your screen that are visible by all in the community.

Another tab available for use in Edmodo is the calendar. This gives teachers the opportunity to schedule reminders and important dates for the class. A useful feature of Edmodo is the assignment tab. Teachers can use this tab to create assignments and share them with the class. Posting an assignment description, assigning a due date, and linking to the teacher’s library or other resources on the internet are a few features in the assignments tab.
Creating a poll is another way to involve students in conversation on Edmodo. Teachers can create a question and give answer choices the students can choose from. Students can answer the question as well as start conversations related to the poll.

![Poll Creation on Edmodo](http://www.edmodo.com)

### Benefits

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<tr>
<th>Teacher Ability</th>
<th>Resource Availability</th>
<th>Academic Access</th>
<th>Parent Engagement</th>
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<td>By giving teachers and students a secure place to share thoughts and ideas, Edmodo connects teachers and students both inside and outside of the classroom. Edmodo is available from any computer making it possible to access information outside of the classroom environment. Teachers have the ability to post resources they find useful and of good quality in the library tab. This gives students another resource for academic information and cuts out the time they would spend trying to find it. Provides quick and easy access to assignments, polls, calendars, and other information on the web. Parents are able to log-on to account with class code and see what students are learning/doing in the classroom. The hope is to create more parent involvement by giving students access to their assignments, calendars, and polls.</td>
<td>Students may use technology as more of a social networking site than as an educational tool. Students may want to participate in more social conversation than academic. It is difficult to filter what students write on each other’s wall. Inappropriate and non-academic content can easily be written on a student’s main page. Some students may not have access to computers at home, leaving them at a disadvantage if assignments are given through Edmodo. Students will easily be able to share and access other student’s files. This could lead to ethical issues in cheating and copying of others’ work.</td>
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parents a way to communicate with the teacher without having to come to the classroom. Parents can log-on when and where is convenient for them.

Students will have a running record of when assignments are due and a complete description of what is expected. If students finish an assignment early, they will be able to move on to the next assignment if they choose.

Teachers can share files, ideas, and other materials with other teachers. This allows them to expand their own library and teaching techniques.

Students will forget passwords. These can be reset but will take time away from classroom teaching.

Teachers will have to spend more time in front of the computer setting up the classroom, editing files, and creating assignments. Each time a new class enters, the online environment will have to be edited.

Environmental Factors:

When using Edmodo, one environmental factor to consider is the availability of computers both in and outside the classroom. Many schools lack funding for computers in the classroom cutting out time that students would be able to access their information during class time. Some students may not have access to a computer at home, creating even less time for students to work on the site. Taking into consideration the availability of computers and internet access the students have, teachers should assign an appropriate amount of work using Edmodo.

A student's home environment will also affect the way Edmodo is used in the classroom. If a student has no experience with computers or an online setting, more explanation and monitoring will be required by the teacher. For students with ample experience with social networking sites, the teacher may need to emphasize that Edmodo will be used primarily for academic content and not necessarily for social conversations as is the case with many other sites.

Problems solved:

Information Presentation

Edmodo helps to solve many problems in the classroom. The first is the lack of quality resources for students to use. Using the library tab, teachers can create a bank of information related to content taught in the classroom. Students wishing to do further research for projects or just for
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interest can use the links provided by the teacher. By doing this, the teacher will have filtered through the information and provided better quality material for the student to use.

Privacy

Another classroom problem Edmodo helps solve is privacy. A person can only be involved in the classroom community if given the class code. This eliminates outsiders viewing classroom content the teacher or students wish to keep to themselves. Teachers can also give grades directly to the students over the internet instead of passing out papers in class, running the risk of other students seeing the grades. Students would also be able to communicate with the teacher in a more private way. Instead of staying after class or talking in front of their classmates, students can send a secure message to the teacher that only he/she will be able to read and respond to with equal privacy.

Organization

Organization is another problem classroom teachers often have with students. Often work is misplaced by either the student or the teacher, causing them to waste time looking for the assignment or redoing it completely. Being able to submit an assignment online as soon as it is finished would alleviate this problem. Storing work and other important links or information through Edmodo gives a secure and dependable place for both teachers and students to find their work.

NETS-S Standards:

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<th>NETS Standard</th>
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<td>2. Communication and collaboration:</td>
<td>Students will use Edmodo to share their ideas individually and in groups. These groups will provide information to peers using multiple forms of media including, but not limited to: blogging, video, audio, and web page design.</td>
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<td>a. interact, collaborate, and publish with peers, experts, or others employing a variety of digital environments and media</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Communication and collaboration:</td>
<td>Students are encouraged to work in groups to study a subject of interest. These groups will present their findings via Edmodo.</td>
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<td>d. contribute to project teams to produce original works or solve problems</td>
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<td>3. Research and information fluency:</td>
<td>Students will research topics pertaining to the content being studied. Students will evaluate information and share quality research with peers via the library tab on Edmodo.</td>
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<td>c. evaluate and select information sources and digital tools based on the appropriateness to specific tasks.</td>
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Edmodo is a free classroom networking site that allows teachers and students to stay connected through academic material. This program can be adapted to fit almost any classroom and gives students access to quality information in a quick amount of time. Edmodo is a useful tool for making the connection between a student’s life at home and experiences in school. This site allows teachers to group students into small learning communities and allows them to explore their interests with peers. Teachers can also pair students together for peer mentoring and to help one encourage the other. Edmodo can be used to enhance learning across the curriculum.

Before using Edmodo in the classroom, the teacher should be aware of some of the problems that may occur and be proactive in making sure these occur minimally to not at all. To ensure the students understand the purpose of the site, teachers should be sure to set clear expectations for the students. Parents should also be notified when the teachers begins use of the site and should be asked to monitor student use at home. Having students sign a contract is a good way to be sure they know and understand what is expected of them. Although the site can be used as both an academic and social networking site, students should understand that no inappropriate content will be tolerated on the site. Edmodo is meant as a learning tool and should be used as such.

Using Edmodo, teachers can reach out to an ever growing technological society. Allowing students to use a site much like Facebook will engage as well as inspire students to use the internet as a source for research and to gain valuable knowledge.
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Resources

Edbuzz.org. Easy Technology for Education: Edmodo 2.0
http://edbuzz.org/djohnson/2009/06/easy-technology-for-education-edmodo-20/