History

As we explore the history of Edmodo we will discover what this tool is, how it was developed, who is responsible for this tool, and how it has been used thus far. Edmodo is a modern way in which teachers and students can connect.

Edmodo, a private micro blogging platform, was developed for use in the classroom by teachers and students. Edmodo provides teachers and students the ability to share notes, links, and files to foster communication inside and outside of the classroom. Teachers also have the ability to post alerts, assignments, and events to share with their students. ("Edmodo")

Edmodo was developed by two men who devote their careers to educational technology. Jeff describes his motivation in the following quote “Edmodo is more than just a backchannel chat :) It's also a great place to post resources, assignments, polls, and anything else you want to share and engage online with your students.” They felt that technologically, teachers were not connecting with their students in an appropriate way. Another web developer stated that “obviously heard my cry for help when they launched Edmodo on September 2nd.” Edmodo was tested in 2008 and was made available to for use thereafter. (“Edmodo”)

The way Edmodo is ran is very similar to Facebook, however, by definition, a specialist network of educators and students, so the risks of being contacted by strangers for non academic purposes are greatly reduced. This creates a safer environment in which students and teachers can safely interact and collaborate. Edmodo is best known for its purpose of social networking in the classroom. A great feature to the program is the fact that it is extremely secure and private with no advertisements. To join, the student has to have a private access code provided by the teacher that enables them to access the main page for the classroom. If the instructor would like the students to join additional pages providing more information, they must insert new access codes each time to prevent those not in the classroom from joining. There is also no personal information required for students to join, so the site is completely secure. (Edmodo)

As the fastest growing K12 social learning network in the world, Edmodo was developed with that intent of creating an online learning environment. This every evolving Web 2.0 tool may only be two years old; however, it is well developed and tested. Edmodo will be a great means of creating an on-line learning environment for many years to come. (Baker)

How To Use Edmodo

A Visual Tour of Edmodo
How Edmodo Relates to Other Applications
has been compared to several types of online applications like Twitter, Facebook, and other micro-blogging websites. This Education 2.0 tool aims

Pros and Cons of the Application

Some good points about this application are its ease of use and its overall ability to keep in contact with students and teachers. The following shows many positives of the Education 2.0 application that teachers have praised:

- Teachers have stated that Edmodo is one of the easiest programs to use for both themselves and their students
- Students are able to communicate to their teachers if they have to take a sick day or for other reasons
Edmodo is portable as well with applications that alert students on through their cell phones and teachers can update information from their phone applications. Students can have discussions on the message board about their school work. Security is high on Edmodo, only allowing students and teachers to communicate in closed, group environments. Edmodo's support has been praised by teachers about how they listen to problems and fix them in a timely manner (Technophilia). Students like the ability to send their homework via Edmodo and then not have to worry about it (Box of Tricks).

With any website or application, teachers have stated that there are some problems with the Education 2.0 application:

- Students cannot directly communicate with one student through Edmodo. For example, if a student needs to ask a question to a partner about a project they are doing, they cannot do so.
- If a student does not have a computer at home to use, this application will not serve the student away from school (Technophilia).
- Students have stated that they would like to have more customization in their profiles, like Facebook or MySpace.
- There is also a lack of instant messaging, or synchronous communication, while both students or a teacher and student are online (Box of Tricks).

These problems are actively being looked into by the Edmodo staff who look at the message boards and question and answer section of the website for new ideas and how to implement them. (Thomas)

One aspect of using the Internet in teaching is the fear that there will be no privacy when ideas are shared. Edmodo, unlike blog sites, has security features that keep the discussions in a closed environment where students can feel safe about sharing their ideas. This is like Facebook in a way because in Facebook you can control who can see your “profile” or not, but Edmodo differs because only the teacher and students who you want to see your post can see it. The website is not public, so there is really peace of mind for parents who may be afraid to have their children posting information on the Internet. (Fleming)

Micro-blogging is a great tool for people to communicate ideas about a certain subject, and Edmodo is taking it a step further with an easy to use interface and the security of discussing ideas in a closed environment. Like Twitter, students can have discussions with the teacher but it has more features than just communicating. Teachers can upload notes and homework and students can turn in homework for a grade. This is a promising application that may not have all of the functions teachers would like yet, but the creators are actively listening to teachers’ ideas and implementing them in updates to the website. Edmodo is a great application for teachers because it gives peace of mind to teachers and parents and allows students to have more freedom in learning outside the classroom.

Real World Applications

Recently, Edmodo has teamed up with one of Revolution Learning's portfolio companies named Fusion Project. Revolution Learning is a private investor that concentrates on the improvement of learning globally in the formal and informal sense. Lately, the merger between Edmodo and the Fusion Project's goal is to improve the nature of web services in the education industry. “Our companies share a similar vision of what a social education platform should look like. Edmodo’s teacher centric model with Fusion Project's student centric model is a winning combination. Together we will accomplish much more in a shorter period of time,” says Chuck Rosendahl, COO/CEO, Fusion Project.

Lesson Plans

A: Elementary Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson Title</th>
<th>What are Anthropods?</th>
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### Target Audience
- **3rd Grade Students**
- **2nd Grade Students**
- **Grade 5-6 Students**
- **Grade 7-8 Students**
- **Grade 10 Students**

### Overview
- Through this lesson, students will learn about the different classifications of anthropods and learn how to access information teachers post through "Edmodo".
- Through this lesson, students will learn how to turn verbs into the proper past tense, as well as how to access information posted by teachers through "Edmodo".
- This lesson helps students to learn the moods of music and describe them in terms of expressive qualities.
- Through this lesson, students will learn how to use the ThatQuiz website through Edmodo. They will learn to work with a partner and then post their reactions onto the Edmodo website. The quiz will involve students going over basic concepts of geometry.
- Through this lesson, students will learn more about impressionism and different artists of this subject by using Edmodo to communicate with classmates and their teacher as well as taking a field trip to the local art museum.

### Objective
- When students complete this lesson, they should be able to sort, classify, and apply their findings to other insects given an hour time period.
- When students finish this lesson, they should be able to:
  - understand that verbs can tell about actions that happened in the past
  - understand that -ed can be added to many verbs to make them tell about the past
  - distinguish between present and past forms of verbs
- The purpose of this lesson is to encourage the students to work in groups as well as using discussion boards on Edmodo and quizzes found that were posted on the site.
- Students will learn more about impressionism and engage with each other better by using Edmodo.

### Links
- STEM Science - Anthropods Lesson Plan.docx
- STEM Science - Anthropods Lesson Plan.pdf
- Past Tense Verb Lesson Plan.docx
- Past Tense Verb Lesson Plan.pdf
- Music Lesson Plan.docx
- Music Lesson Plan.pdf
- STEM Mathematics - Geometry Lesson Plan.docx
- STEM Mathematics - Geometry Lesson Plan.pdf

### Created By
- Eric Seitz
- Brian McNamara
- Jenna Lewis
- Katie German
### Separation of Powers Lesson Plan

**Lesson Title:** Separation of Powers Lesson Plan  
**Target Audience:** Grade 10 Students  
**Overview:** Through this lesson, students will learn more about the Separation of Powers and how they play a role in the government as well as understanding federalism by accessing information posted by teachers on Edmodo.  
**Objective:** After completing this lesson, students will know more about the separation of powers and federalism, and how to effectively communicate with other students and the teacher using Edmodo.  
**Links:**  
edmodo lesson plan doc.doc \[History Separation of Powers Lesson Plan.docx\]  
edmodo lesson art plan doc.pdf \[History Separation of Powers Lesson Plan.pdf\]  
**Created By:** Jessica Cassidy

### Making a Website

**Lesson Title:** Making a Website  
**Target Audience:** First Year College Students  
**Overview:** Through this lesson plan, students should be able to create and publish a website through a free website creator of Google Sites using information provided through Edmodo.  
**Objective:** When students complete this lesson, they should be able to successfully create and publish a website given an hour to work.  
**Links:**  
STEM Technology - Website Lesson Plan.docx  
STEM Technology - Website Lesson Plan.pdf  
**Created By:** Eric Seitz

### Social Studies Geography Lesson Plan

**Lesson Title:** Social Studies Geography Lesson Plan  
**Target Audience:** Post-Secondary  
**Overview:** Through this lesson, students will learn about different cultures and how to interact with students from those countries. Using Edmodo and the Pearson myWorld Geography page on Edmodo, students will post discussions interacting with students all over the world.  
**Objective:** The purpose of this lesson is to get the students to engage and experience different cultures without leaving the classroom.  
**Links:**  
Social Studies Lesson Plan.docx  
Social Studies Lesson Plan.pdf  
**Created By:** Katie German

### Anatomy and Disorder of the Brain and Nerves

**Lesson Title:** Anatomy and Disorder of the Brain and Nerves  
**Target Audience:** Undergraduate Collegiate Students  
**Overview:** This lesson aims to help students to diagram the brain and nervous system and to explain some disorders that may occur.  
**Objective:** Given a diagram of the brain and nervous system students will be able to identify all items they were taught with a 100% accuracy and briefly explain some disorders that may occur.  
**Links:**  
EDCI 270 post secondary anatomy.docx  
Anatomy Lesson Plan.pdf  
**Created By:** Jenna Lewis
Demonstration of Educational Value

As times change and technology grows, teachers are constantly finding ways to keep up with their students. They find new books to teach, new lesson plans, and now new programs online. With social networking becoming so popular for this generation, teachers have decided to follow the expression “When in Rome.” They want something that would be useful in the classroom as well as something that is educational and will benefit their students’ needs. This is why Edmodo was discovered and created.

- **Edmodo** is a private website for teachers and students to stay communicated.
- Built on a microblogging (activity of posting regular updates on a microblog) model, the site gives teachers the ability to handle class activity online.
- Teachers can send out assignments, receive completed assignments and post grades & maintain a class calendar, store and share files, and conduct polls.
- Teachers can also use the site to send text messages to students.
- Users have a home page where they can see a summary of recent activity for their class. The home page allows the teacher to:
  - assign work, post homework/test/quizzes on the calendar
  - send out an alert, send a private or public message to the whole class or just one student
  - share links or files with each student (when a link or file is shared, the teacher or students have the option to post a comment under it).
  (Baker)

There are a number of filters that can be applied to the summary view, including:

- notes, alerts, events, assignments, links and files.
- Teachers can keep grades updated (which make it easy for the students to see how they are doing in the class and if they need to make improvements). (R, Laura)

Because using social media is second nature to students growing up today, teachers are learning that the best way to reach out to students is through technology they already understand, hence using Edmodo. Edmodo is perfect for a classroom setting. It offers:

- free applications that a teacher can use to help their students stay on track.
- upload many different types of files such as doc, pdf, ppt, and jpg. (this is good for students because different computers use/have different software programs).
- students and email one another privately and more importantly email their teacher (this promotes one-on-one interaction).
- Teachers can make calendars (here they can make due dates noticeable to their students, which makes studying for tests/quizzes easier and they are more likely to finish homework/projects on time).
- Students and their teachers can post ‘comments’ (this is another good way for the whole classroom to communicate with one another and provide positive feedback). (Edmodo Review)

All of this makes Edmodo prime for providing educational values for its students. There are more than 200,000 students and teachers using Edmodo since its beginning. Edmodo has helped many teachers and students stay interacted and interested in school. Because students spend a majority of their time on the computer, they are growing attached to Edmodo, which in the long run is making learning fun. If teachers are searching for something to get their students involved as well as fulfill education requirements, Edmodo is the tool to use!

How Edmodo is Used Internationally

Edmodo is a private micro-blogging platform built for use by teachers and students for use in the classroom, and it is becoming more and more popular amongst worldwide. Many teachers can use Edmodo internationally by adding any language of their own, with Spanish already being recently added in March of 2010 by system administrators (Baker). With the new addition of languages for this application, educational settings worldwide can now use Edmodo to enhance the learning environment for students (Baker).

Because Edmodo is used through the Internet, teachers and students from all over the globe are able to access the specific pages for their classrooms. In the near future, there have been plans made to launch an international presence in the education world. There will be increased conference speaking arrangements in addition to important, strategic partnerships in the education industry.
Not only do we see a lot of use of Edmodo in the United States, including its biggest supporters in Illinois and California, but we also have been seeing a huge increase in membership of the students and teachers of Brazil (Edmodo-Microblogging). In Brazil, the site is being used more towards a place where the teachers test out a new lesson plan or idea before actually implementing it into their classroom (Edmodo-Microblogging). This use of Edmodo in other countries will increase even more as the site becomes more popular and people begin to understand the many benefits.

One way to utilize Edmodo on an international level is that a student or teacher can travel to any place in the world and instantaneously share their experiences with their class (Edmodo). Often times current classroom educators miss out on exceptional educational experiences because they cannot afford to spend that amount of time without being in contact with their class. Edmodo changes this and gives even individual classroom an international face.

References


Thomas. Open Education. 10 November 2010 <http://www.openeducation.net/2008/09/20/edmodo-free-microblogging-site-for-educators/>.

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