Wikis

Wikis are web sites that allow users to collaborate on projects and share resources often within a password protected site. Users are able to upload documents, revise and edit existing documents or view previous versions of documents.

The most famous wiki would be Wikipedia which contains more than 30 million articles in 286 languages and is constantly evolving through the contributions of authors around the world. http://wikipedia.org

Wikispaces hosts secure communities where participants can create their own portfolios of work, share items or collaborate on projects with selected users. http://wikispaces.com

Surrey Schools is a locally hosted, searchable, secure storage platform where users can upload their media. All Surrey students have an account. http://www.surreyschools.ca

Information Management

Dropbox is an online cloud storage service where any type of file can be uploaded into folders and then designated as public, private or shared. It allows users to store files and access them on any device. http://dropbox.com

Google Drive is another online cloud storage service which allows collaboration between selected users. http://google.com

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YouTube allows viewers access to billions of hours of video content. Users can upload their videos, search the entire collection or create playlists of their favourites. There are options for creating private channels. http://youtube.com

Skype allows for users to video conference. Users can make a free video call to other Skype users anywhere in the world over the Internet. http://skype.com

Surrey Schools
LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING

Social Media in the Classroom

Surrey Schools – Education Services
2013

Surrey School District recognizes the over arching importance of creating innovative learning environments that provide tools for students which are relevant to their daily lives. To that end, all Surrey students are able to access safe, online technologies that empower learning and better prepare them to thrive in an increasingly digital world. As students complete authentic learning tasks, create knowledge and share it with a variety of audiences, their sense of purpose and engagement in their learning increases.

Teachers use many digital tools in their classrooms to promote learning. Some tools focus on collaboration and sharing – Facebook, Wikispaces and Kidblog – other tools are used to manage information – Dropbox, YouTube, and Surreyschools.ca – others are used to publish in a variety of formats.

This list contains information about some of the commonly used tools. It is important to consider that as needs and technology evolve, learning tools will change.

If you have further questions, please consult with the classroom teacher.

Social Media

Social media tools allow students and teachers to collaborate and share information with each other, and the wider world. Most social media services require each user to create an account and agree to the terms of service.

Facebook is one of the better known social networks with more than one billion users worldwide. Every one of these users has a profile that they create and decide how much information they are willing to share. Names can be searched and networks are created by 'friend'-ing. Privacy settings allow users to restrict the ability of others to see details such as posted messages, photos or lists of friends. Facebook provides information on its site about privacy settings and has a policy that users have to be 13 years old. http://www.facebook.com

Twitter is another large social network which restricts the length of a message to 140 characters (about three lines of text) and also supports photos and video. Names can be searched and networks are created by 'follow'-ing. http://twitter.com

Flickr and Photobucket are sites were users can upload their photos as well as view and comment on the photos of other users. Creative Commons copyrights licenses are displayed and attribution is needed for using images posted. http://flickr.com http://photobucket.com

Blogs

Blogging is a way to express thoughts and ideas opening via the Internet – much like an electronic journal. A blog post can include text, pictures or video and allows for viewers to comment on posts and interact with the author. Teachers often choose to use blogs as a way of providing an authentic audience for their students' work.

Depending on the purpose of the blog, it can be made private – where only certain people can view and interact with the content – or public where anyone can participate. Many blogging sites such as Blogger http://www.blogger.com, Edublogs http://edublogs.org, Kidblog http://kidblog.org or Wordpress http://wordpress.org allow moderators to preview posts prior to them appearing live online. Student blogs hosted within Surreyschools.ca are viewable only by the teacher and classmates.