Digital Resources Guideline

There are many different Educational Technology tools available. As educators, it is important that we make informed decisions regarding the tools we use with students. One of the most important considerations when selecting any tool should be the security of student/staff information. Below is a list of tools that are **Approved, Cautioned**, and **Not Approved** by the District School Board of Niagara. When using these tools, adherence to copyright law is required.

APPROVED

BookFlix
Britannica Online
Career Cruising (enddate is …)
Desire2Learn (D2L)
Dreambox
ERMC resources 1
ERMC resources 2
Encompass
Flipgrid
GitHub Education
Google Apps for Education (Drive, Meet, Classroom, Sites, etc.)
Jamboard
Knowledgehook
Mathify
Medianet & ERMC Resources (Learn360, Curio, Khan Academy, etc.)
Office 365 (TEAMS, Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
School Cash Online
Screencastify
Scratch
Teenbook CLoud
Tumblebooks

Benefits of using these tools;
- Managed and supported by DSBN & Ministry for security and privacy
- Data stored on secure servers

CAUTION

Twitter
Remind
Facebook

- **Separate *personal* account from *school* account**

- **Abide by Media Release Forms (use student information appropriately, with parent consent)**

- **One-way communication only**

- **Depersonalized student information (ie. use student initials)**

Not APPROVED

The programs below do not comply with the acceptable use and privacy standards of the District School Board of Niagara.

Class Dojo   Sesame
Seesaw   SnapChat
Zoom   Instagram

There are safer and more secure alternatives to using the tools mentioned above. Such as ;

- D2L
- Brightspace Portfolio
- Google Classroom
- Google Sites
- MS TEAMs
- Google Meet
- Flipgrid

Questions to Consider When Selecting Software

1. Does the vendor comply with *Child Online Privacy and Protection Act*?
2. Is it possible to de-personalize student information (ie. use generic logins)?
3. Is a purchase required to use the tool?
4. How does the user close the account and remove their information?
5. Is the website secure (https://) and is Data transmitted securely?
6. Is parental permission required?
7. Is student data collected? Who owns the data?
8. Will information be used for marketing?
9. Is there advertising present on the site?
10. Can accounts be shared publicly?
11. Can this be independently verified?