Assignment 2 – Part 1 – Project Documentation

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Overview

My course topic is Grade 4 Science based on the BC Curriculum, and the specific unit that I will be focusing on in part two is "Biomes and Adaptations". The course will be hosted using Google Classroom and the intended audience will be Grade 4 students and their parents. The reason for including parents in this audience is that they may need to assist their child in staying on top of assignments and learning tasks. This is considered in certain aspects of the introduction, as the overall learning objectives of the course are presented in text form (for the parents) and video form (for the students).

Learning

The broad learning objectives for the overall course relate to the big ideas of the BC Curriculum. Grade 4 students are expected to learn that all living things sense and respond to their environment, matter takes up space and changes phases, energy can be transformed, and that the earth, sun, and moon affect living and non-living systems (BC Ministry of Education, n.d.). The skills that students will develop also relate to the BC Curricular Competencies as students are expected to participate in questioning and predicting, planning and conducting, processing and analyzing data and information, evaluating, applying and innovating, and communicating (BC Ministry of Education, n.d.).

Unit learning objectives will be displayed at the start of each unit in Google Classroom. The reason for having them at the start of each unit is to provide a quick review of what students should expect to learn at the beginning of the unit so that they are not overwhelmed by information at the start of the course.

Assessments will primarily take place during weekly discussions or small assignments. Larger assessments will take place through quizzes and tests using Google Forms or through unit projects to showcase knowledge. As the course is fully online, a limitation is that students could have access to their

materials during assessments. Therefore, it must be assumed that students have access to all information during assessments.

The course is designed with constructivism in mind using group projects and peer discussions. Students will be encouraged to share their knowledge throughout the course, and Google Classroom will be viewed as a place of shared knowledge and not only a place of instructor-to-student communication.

The role of the instructor is to help facilitate the learning process in a fully online environment. Modules will be unlocked on a weekly basis to help students pace themselves, and the instructor will be available to give feedback and provide support. Students will oversee their learning through videos and other resources, and the instructor will be available to answer questions and check in.

Design & Accessibility

The design of the course is incredibly important, especially for the young audience of Grade 4 students. The design must be simple, and features should be minimal so that the students can easily navigate and find what they need. The course should feel intuitive, which is why the classwork tab is organized in chronological order. Google Classroom allows students to view and submit assignments using Google Docs, Google Slides, and even other non-Google services like Canva. Since a lot of these services integrate seamlessly with Google Classroom, it was an easy choice for a Grade 4 Online Classroom. The usage of simple colours and fonts will allow for greater accessibility and visual clarity for all students. Key phrases and instructions are bolded to draw attention to them. Furthermore, digital elements such as Google Slides, Google Forms, and Canva Videos will be used to provide an optimal learning experience for students in a more modern way.

The overall design goal of the course is to use descriptive language and clean organization so that students know exactly where everything is that they might need. As students would most likely immediately ask their parent or guardian if they are unable to find something, this was considered so

that students can truly be responsible for their own learning by easily navigating through the course themselves.

All assignments can be modified to increase student success. All curricular competencies can be assessed by the instructor in different ways to accommodate those with disabilities or impairments. Google Classroom and the overall Google for Education suite offer many tools such as typing with voice, screen reader, and colour inversion (Google, n.d.).

Privacy and Security

Due to this being a course for Grade 4 students, there are many considerations that are necessary for privacy and security. To begin, students must use a school-provided Google for Education account to access the course. Parents will be invited as guardians to the Google Classroom so that they can monitor their child's progress.

The reason for requiring students to use a school-provided account is to use Google's security and privacy features at an administrative level to restrict accounts. As students are not of age to use certain features like YouTube without supervision, this can be restricted so that students can only view videos that are directly allowed by the instructor. However, a limitation could be that students could simply sign into two accounts at home and use a non-restricted account to view YouTube videos.

Furthermore, this would allow administrators access to monitor accounts for the safety of students. As an example, administrators could monitor the use of Gmail by enforcing filters to block potential spam emails or security risks. Student records must be kept in Canada which was another consideration for the usage of Google Classroom.

To further protect individual records and data, the instructors' Google account must have two-factor authentication enabled in case of compromised devices or passwords. Also, the class code must

be reset after all students have been invited to the course to ensure unauthorized individuals cannot

join.

References

BC Ministry of Education. (n.d.) *Building student success – B.C. curriculum – Science 4*. BC Government.

https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/science/4/core

Google. (n.d.). *Accessibility features in Google for Education.* https://edu.google.com/intl/ALL_us/why-

google/accessibility/