

Chinook's Edge teachers take sharing to a whole new level inside innovative Google Classroom platform

What did you do on your summer vacation? Fourteen Chinook's Edge teachers spent their first few days of summer break collaborating on a comprehensive series of Google Classroom materials that will benefit high school teachers and students throughout the division.



"This is such important work and so many of our teachers will benefit from your efforts," Superintendent Kurt Sacher told the group as they worked together at the start of summer.

"By giving your colleagues access to Google Classrooms, it creates a culture of sharing, and it saves everyone the time and energy they need to deal with the increasing complexities of teaching."

The project initially involves high school courses and provides made-in-Chinook's-Edge teaching resources and materials for all core subject areas from grades 9-12. This includes course outlines, lesson plans, rigorous assessments, and supplementary materials such as videos, articles, handouts and suggestions for activities. While the 14 'master teachers' developed the Google Classrooms, the resources are now being shared with all Chinook's Edge teachers who are teaching the courses.

Through the division's collaborative culture, and as fellow teachers access and add to the materials, each Google Classroom will continue to grow.

"Teachers continue to have complete professional autonomy, but can now access and share high quality resources," said Karyn Barber, Associate Superintendent of System Services.

"Ultimately, having access to this depth of resources will benefit our Grade 9-12 students – at all levels in their learning. This project allows us to focus our efforts and bring the very best work to our students. We are excited about the possibilities this shared knowledge will create, and our next step will be to select the next round of master teachers to create Google Classrooms for a wide selection of other high school courses. We look forward to working with this next group over the three high school collaborative days during this school year."



Jason Drent, Karyn Barber, Michelle Baragar, Kurt Sacher...collaborating on the depth and design of Google Classrooms over the summer.

"Chinook's Edge places a huge priority on staff health and wellness, and the reality is that sharing the best of our teaching practices allows individuals more quality time for their families. We can collaborate on our work and then go for a bike ride with our kids!" said Michelle Baragar, Learning Services Coordinator (Educational Technology), who built the Google Classroom template. "Teachers are incredibly passionate and knowledgeable in their subject areas, and when they are collaborating with someone from another classroom you can feel the energy. That's what Google Classroom provides – it is a tool that everyone can dig deep inside of to inform their work and it will translate positively into the classroom."

"Everyone in the group is keen to be creating Chinook's Edge resources, to bring further success into the classroom," said Jason Drent, Associate Superintendent of Learning Services. "Eventually Google Classrooms will cover all K-12 curriculum, including shared support and high leverage strategies. Whether you're in a smaller school or a larger environment, you will have access to the same rich material. We are creating a vision for the future of teaching and learning throughout our division, and our collaborative nature may help us get there in the next few years!"