

Communicating Student Learning in SD71

Portfolio is one of two approved options in our Elementary Schools

(MyEducation BC is the 2nd option)

Teachers are encouraged to implement a **Continuous** protocol in their classrooms:

- A. Philosophically this means it is a fluid 'reporting' protocol over the course of the year with no predetermined times to provide posts to students and parents. It is on a continuous basis with posting done as key snapshots become evident for each learner.
- B. It requires that teachers adhere to the Guiding Parameters designed by a focus group of elementary teaching colleagues and is a living document that may undergo further editing as colleagues embark on this learning.
- C. A minimum expectation for the number and type of posts is included in the document titled Portfolio Tracking Sheet.
- D. A summary post, issued in June (and recommended halfway through the year as well), will include all core curriculum areas and informs parents at the end of each year of the summative growth in their child's learning.

A second protocol, currently called the **Term** protocol, is a stepping-stone for teachers new to communicating student learning via portfolio to move to the Continuous protocol:

- A. Philosophically this means it more closely matches our historical protocol of issuing 'reports' 3 times each year and provides a predictable work time to focus on the posting of snapshots.
- B. It requires that teachers adhere to the Guiding Parameters designed by a focus group of elementary teaching colleagues and is a living document that may undergo further editing as colleagues embark on this learning.
- C. The minimum expectation for number and type of posts is included in the document titled Portfolio Tracking Sheet.
- D. A summary post, issued in June (and recommended halfway through the year as well), will include all core curriculum areas and informs parents at the end of each year of the summative growth in their child's learning.

Where to access resources to support you?

To access this document, the Guiding Parameters, tutorials to learn about digital portfolio in My Site, exemplars to guide your learning, a suggested student portfolio tracking form(s) and, the key components of our new curriculum and assessment framework, please see Kara Dawson's posts in

Learn71.ca

Go to **learn71.ca**, click on **Assessment and Reporting**, then click on **ePortfolios** and then click on **What are Portfolios** and look at the featured links on the right of the page.

Collegial Support Team:

For the past three years a number of your colleagues have been evolving in their use of digital portfolios and have been critical to the construction of our vision and principles, for developing the support resources and for providing direct shoulder to shoulder support to colleagues. Following are teachers who are prepared to come out to your school and to present to you and your colleagues and to provide support. Ideally they will work in pairs when they come to your school. You are free to make direct contact and set up a support session.

Jennifer Hedican	Puntledge Park	Martin Hartig	Puntledge Park	Lisa
Jaki Braidwood	Brooklyn	Andrea Cochrane	Brooklyn	
Catherine Manson	Courtenay El.	Debra Fullerton	Arden El.	
Jacque Andersen	District			
Kara Dawson	IT Centre			
Eileen David	Queneesh			
Jocelyn Bystrom	Teacher Librarian			
Karla Lingren	Cumberland			
Cheryl Adebar	Robb Road			

Frequently Asked Questions:

- As a teacher new to portfolio am I required to follow the Term protocol?
 - No.
- Is one protocol seen as better than the other?
 - The Continuous protocol is known to spread the work load and most importantly is seen as a more natural way of showing student growth over time when we communicate to parents.
 - It also closely aligns with the new curriculum and assessment framework the Ministry of Education is implementing.
 - And it more closely meets the needs of our increasing numbers of digitally literate students and parents.
- Is this a learning year for digital portfolio and do I have flexibility in how I approach this?
 - Yes. This is only the second year of rolling out portfolios and we are learning together and actively seeking new ideas to improve the process.
- Am I free to make mistakes while implementing digital portfolio?
 - Absolutely!

- If I have decided to use MyEducation BC to communicate formally to parents this year am I also permitted to learn/use portfolio?
 - Of course! You will be supported by your Principal and/or a colleague(s) in your building that is already using portfolios and/or a PLC in another school that is focussing on portfolio and/or Kara Dawson, lead implementer for Digital Portfolio.
 - You will be required to do complete and thorough MyEducation BC report cards while you learn portfolios.

- May I transition from MyEducation BC to portfolios partway through the year?
 - Yes. This will take open communication with your Principal and with the parents of your students.

- How will I learn to use digital portfolios on My Site?
 - Invite Kara into your classroom and/or work with a colleague(s) within your building and/or a colleague(s) from another school.
 - Access the portals Kara set up:
 - Go to **learn71.ca**, click on **Assessment and Reporting**, then click on **ePortfolios** and then click on **What are Portfolios** and look at the featured links on the right
 - To walk yourself through the **My Site Help** page in Learn 71, click on this button on the side bar of the home page.

- Is My Site the only supported digital portfolio platform?
 - Yes.
 - This is the only application on the market where confidential student information is stored on our local servers.
 - As a result, we are 100% Freedom of Information compliant and NO consent is required from parents.
 - Furthermore, this is the only product that allows you to access your work files from anywhere in the world at any time and on any device.

- Am I free to design my own portfolio tracking spreadsheets?
 - Yes.

- How do we use PLC time to support students through the implementation of digital portfolios?
 - It is being done already in a few schools and networking is supported and being promoted.
 - Use of PLC time for this purpose is also a perfect fit with the philosophy of our district's implementation of PLCs.

- How often does my PVP need to read my posts?
 - PVPs will read them at regularly spaced times throughout the year.

- It is also suggested that an optional and informal forum be structured to have open conversations about type and variety of posts among teaching peers.
- Do we need to post on every part of every Big Idea in the new curriculum?
 - No
 - Over time we will learn the natural flow of communication so that learner engagement is optimized and parental support for their child's learning is maximized.
- Does live 3 Way Conferencing fit into the communication of student learning?
 - Yes, this is a natural fit with communicating through portfolios.
 - These could be offered on an ad-hoc basis and/or could be part of the formal parent interview time(s).
- Do I need to put Letter Grades in gr. 4-7 portfolios?
 - No.
- Does the Report Card Order of the Ministry of Education require letter grades be posted for grade 4-7 students?
 - The current requirement is that they be available to parents upon their request at the end of the school year. We are NOT required to send letter grades home at the end of the year. We put them on electronic file i.e. MEBC and access them if a parent makes the request.
- Is there a new Report Card Order on the way?
 - Yes and we do not know the timing of its release. We are led to believe it will come out this school year and that it will reflect the new curriculum and assessment paradigm.