

Course: Social Connections

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Course Description:

Elementary Summer Learning courses focus on developing students' self-concept, self-awareness and self-advocacy through enhancing and building foundational skills in an engaging and supportive environment.

Students in the Elementary Social Connections Program work towards the following goals:

- Social communication (conversation starters, turn-taking, etc.)
- Creating and maintaining positive reciprocal relationships
- Navigating social situations and perspective taking
- Flexible thinking
- Identifying emotions and applying appropriate self-regulation strategies
- Understanding the size of a problem and problem-solving in restorative ways
- Responsible decision-making

Summer Learning Beliefs:

Summer Learning provides an engaging learning environment where all students can challenge themselves academically and fulfill their learning goals. To ensure this, students will:

- Respect themselves and others
- Attend every class and be punctual
- Communicate, think, and participate to the best of your individual ability
- Access technology in class for learning purposes only, when instructed to do so
- Challenge themselves and have fun learning

Summer Learning policies can be accessed at:

[https://www.sd44.ca/school/summer/About/Pages/default.aspx#/=
=](https://www.sd44.ca/school/summer/About/Pages/default.aspx#/=)

School Supplies: What do students need to bring?

- Binder
- Dividers
- Crayons and/or pencil crayons
- Felt pens
- Pencils
- Eraser
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Highlighter
- Sketchbook
- Ingredients for making pizza (date and details to come)
- Clear plastic bottle or jar with lid

Learning Plan: What will students do?

Communication:

- I can use strategies to understand others' points of view
- I can use flexible thinking when it comes to communicating with others
- I can communicate meaningfully to keep a conversation going and convey messages to others
- I can demonstrate active and respectful listening to adults and peers

Social Situations & Relationships:

- I can make responsible decisions that help me and others
- I can recognize how I am feeling then choose self-regulation strategies to help me manage my emotions
- I can be a good friend by being respectful, kind, and fair
- I can distinguish between a big problem and a small problem

Self-Regulation:

- I can identify and express my feelings and emotions
- I can use flexible thinking when solving problems and doing new and non-preferred tasks
- I can name and apply strategies to appropriately manage my feelings and emotions, and advocate for when I need a break

Assessment: How will students demonstrate their learning?

Assessment for this course will be ongoing, and formative. Students will engage in self-assessment regularly within the program. Students will assess their strengths and stretches when communicating with others, when building and maintaining relationships, and identifying self-regulation strategies. Students will provide evidence of their findings at the end of the program.

My Learning Story

Students will create a 'My Learning Story' duotang that will function as a portfolio of strengths, stretches, and strategies that support their learning. Students will be able to share this with teachers and support staff at their home school. This duotang will contain information on different strategies and tools that help students learn, different activities they've completed, and self-reflections on what they've been learning.

School Community: How do we celebrate ourselves as learners?

July 10th – Cooperative Games Day

Let's play! Get to know your new classmates a little better while playing your **favourite non-electronic game***. Together we will spend part of the day using our communication, collaboration, and problem-solving skills to play some games together.

**Students are welcome to bring non-electronic games from home.*

July 17th – Colour Fun Day!

Let's get colourful! Each class will be given a colour and students will be invited to wear as much of this colour as possible. Students will engage in a colour-inspired writing activity and a fun community building game! A colourful treat will also be offered on this Community Day.

July 21st – Celebration of Learning Open House @11:30

Families are welcomed in to see the learning that has taken place during the program.

Resources:

These are examples of textbooks, online resources, websites, etc. that teachers have used to guide learning in the Social Connections Program:

- Everyday Speech
- Zones of Regulation
- Open Parachute
- CASEL
- Should I or Shouldn't I (Social Learning Card Game)
- Social Thinking Website