The leaning objective of this Scenario is for students to develop a better understanding of being a global citizen including exploring diversity, experiencing global learning, and embracing the concept of responsibility. To accomplish the learning objective of this Scenario, I need to confirm a global contact and explore what tools are available that would work for both parties. We need to develop a plan of action to address the learning objective and implement it. The Scenario provides a global contact (teacher in Cape Town, South Africa) and I have decided to use Edmodo as the collaboration tool. The first step in collaboration is to confirm the global contact and investigate which tools are already being used and what type of lessons could help accomplish the learning objective. Once we have a confirmation of interest, both my global contact and I would need to get tentative approval from our supervisors. Working with our IT departments, we need to research available and compatible Web 2.0 tools. After deciding on a mutual tool of choice, we would need to investigate which grade/subject to use for the initial lessons. At this point, I would bring in selected teachers that could support the lessons in the classroom as part of their curriculum. I then move to a more advisory/consultant position working with the Web 2.0 tool and training/helping the teachers. As the teachers work together on planning the lessons, I support their vision by exploring how the Web 2.0 tool can meet the expectations of their thinking and setting up trainings and tutorials for the teachers and students. During the actual lessons, I need to be on-hand for last minute hiccups in the systems we’ve put in place so the teacher can continue the flow of the lesson even if the technology is not cooperating. After the lessons, it is important to document what we did, how we did it, and what was accomplished in addition to debriefing what could be done better or differently in the future. Another key to debriefing is to determine where we can go from here so that the experience is not a one-time thing or completed in isolation from the rest of the students’ school life.

Edmodo is accessible globally but has security in place to protect the students. It is a controlled social networking environment in which teachers can post topics for discussion, assignments, surveys/polls, and quizzes that students can respond to when they are able. Because it is mobile device compatible, Edmodo is available to the class when they are outside the classroom such as on a nature walk or field trip. Because it is available 24/7, the problems of global classrooms being on different time schedules are lessened as students can log in and respond to posts while another group may be home sleeping. Being able to see that someone is posting at 2am will help students gain an understanding of some of the issues involved with globalization. Students learn personal responsibility through Edmodo’s controlled social networking which also prepares them for interactions on a global scale in less controlled settings.

I think it was fortuitous that I was available to attend the webinar that exposed me to Edmodo where I learned what it can do and heard the teacher story about the classrooms in Massachusetts and Ohio participating together in the Plimouth Plantation field trip. I love learning and find free webinars to be enriching ways to spend time. I have been exposed to several new tools and shown tricks about tools I’ve been using for awhile. On the staff webpage or wiki (when I am staff somewhere!) I will have a page/section listing links to upcoming free webinars for anyone who wants to learn more. It is one thing to learn about a tool, but quite another to put it into practice. I am prepared for that – my past has almost guaranteed my skills in that arena. I began with computers as mainframes with batch programs and punched cards. I have experienced creating a program from scratch to meet a user’s needs and have a very good eye for details that would make life easier for the user. I understand about limitations based on existing programming but am quick to find ways to use what exists to meet needs. After the webinar, I went to my afterschool supervisor and set up the staff as a group in Edmodo, giving a very quick explanation to staff since we didn’t have any time left in the monthly staff meeting. I think the biggest asset to any NEW project happening and going well is an enthusiastic administrator so definitely need to have sign on near the very beginning from them. Ideally, it is best to use tools you have practiced with and are very comfortable with, but with the speed of today’s technological advances that is not always possible. I’ve learned that the right tool will be there when you need it so keep filling up your toolbox because you never know when someone might need to borrow from your box of tricks. It might even be you!!!