



## Harbor Country Day School

### **All About Moodle**

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Along with the new year comes another innovation at Harbor. We have just launched our MOODLE online course management site. In the spirit of developing the 21st Century skills that will ensure their future success, Harbor students can now access homework, schedules, details about assignments and other coursework through the secure, password protected MOODLE website accessible from the “Quick Links” menu on the Harbor homepage ([www.harborcountrydayschool.org](http://www.harborcountrydayschool.org)).

As MOODLE is increasingly integrated into our curricula, teachers may begin to use many of its other interactive options, from wiki tools, which will allow classes to work collaboratively on a single document, to discussion forums, where students will read and respond to classmates’ ideas about a discussion prompt provided by a teacher or even a fellow student. We are excited about the possibilities!

MOODLE is a safe web environment. Only Harbor students and faculty have access to this site. Additionally, all activity on the site is monitored by the faculty. MOODLE was introduced during classes to all Harbor students in grades 5-8. Students were provided with personal login information, and teachers have discussed the protocol and process for logging in and using the course websites. Students were invited to access MOODLE from home as well as school beginning on Wednesday, January 14, 2009.

Although MOODLE is a communication and collaboration tool for students, families are encouraged to become acquainted with the site as well. Many parents have asked their students for guided tours of the MOODLE site for their classes and have noticed the variety of resources and activities different classes are using.

Harbor has developed an Acceptable Use Policy which was signed by both students and parents before passwords were issued. By signing this policy, the parents and children agree to do their part to extend the safe environment we provide for Harbor students beyond the school building and onto the internet.