



The Gaggle

Bringing you a Gaggle of News

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Communication: The Key to Success

Teaching and learning are really all about communication; so improved communication should lead to improved learning. Keeping students informed of assignments, testing, and school events can be a challenge; so providing important information in a variety of ways can increase the odds that it sticks.

Your Gaggle accounts are a perfect tool for communication, giving students information in written form they can access from school or home, and save for future reference. Sending information by email also allows those students who need it to use the Translation tool or the Auditory Feedback System (**Say It Button**).

Most teachers using Gaggle already know how to create User Groups or Address Groups to easily communicate with an entire class. But the potential for school or even district-wide communication using Gaggle is often underutilized.

If every student in the school has Gaggle, principals, media specialists, and guidance counselors can send email with important school information directly to the students. Gaggle has built-in address groups that will allow users with School Admin access or higher to send to All Users, All Students in the School, or All Teachers, District Admin access users can also send to All Students or All Users in the District.

You can find these Built-In Groups on the **Compose** screen when you click the **To** button. Your access level determines the groups you will see on your list, so of course students don't have them.

Teacher blogs are also a great way to keep students and parents informed, and many teachers use them like a simple website. Register for this month's webinar to learn more!

Curriculum Corner

Can't count on your kids to log in and check their Gaggle email? They might be able to get it on their cell phone! If you have subscription accounts, you and your students can have Gaggle "popped" to your phone. You'll need an email-capable phone and a data plan, but a lot of students already have those, so make use of them! It's a simple setup you could walk through in a quick class lesson, and the kids will love it when you say, "Get out your cell phone" instead of "Put it away!" Find instructions In Tech Talk on Page 2!

Free Webinars

Register for one or more of our free training webinars! Click the link below, choose your session(s), and fill out the registration information. You must use your Gaggle email address to register. You will be sent your personal webinar log in within 2 business days.

To participate in a webinar, you will need Firefox or Internet Explorer on an internet-accessible computer, as well as speakers for the audio. A microphone is not required as you will be able to ask questions using a chat-type interface.

Webinars are approximately 40 minutes long, all times listed are Central Daylight Time.

October Webinar Schedule

Get the Word Out!

Using Teacher Blogs to keep students and parents informed.

Wed. Oct. 14th, 3:00 pm CDT
Mon. Oct. 19th, 4:00 pm CDT
Thur. Oct. 29th, 3:30 pm CDT

[Click here to register!](#)

Gaggle.Net

Gaggle.Net, Inc.
P.O. Box 1352, Bloomington, IL 61702
800-288-7750 admin@gaggle.net



School Spotlight Florence City Schools, Alabama

H1N1 is a *definite* potential threat to education, having already caused school closings around the country at the end of last school year. This year, many districts are planning for this possibility, determined to continue the business of educating their students if they have to close buildings, or have students and staff with prolonged absences.

When Alabama's Department of Education informed districts that they must have a plan for continuing education of their students in the event of illness, Florence City Schools started looking at the resources they had to accomplish this. The district has used Gaggle with their students for many years, so their students and teachers are already familiar with the system, and used to using not only email, but the other eTools as well. Dihanne Westfield, their IT Coordinator, realized Gaggle could be the lifeline for their students in the event of closures.

The district has been providing additional training around Gaggle's tools for their teachers to make sure they are prepared and to support their integration of Gaggle with their current teaching. Dihanne felt Gaggle had a low learning curve for her teachers, but wants to be sure everyone is familiar with the new Velocity interface and the Homework Drop Boxes.

The district is hoping they will not need to use their plan, but they are confident that Gaggle will help them continue their students' learning if swine flu hits their schools. Digital Lockers, Homework Drop Boxes, Message Boards, along with email, can be used as a virtual classroom in case of emergency closures. And even if that isn't needed, Dihanne feels the additional awareness and training will increase the integration of Gaggle's 21stCentury tools into their classrooms. It's a win-win situation for the kids either way!

ASK ADMIN...

Question: How do I find certain users on the User List? The old interface had sorting options at the top.

Answer: The sorting options are still available. Click View at the top of the User List to see the different choices. Click your choice to reload. Another great new feature is called Admin Search, which is on your Admin Menu or use F8 on your keyboard. You can search by user name or their full name. The results will be a User List showing only matches to your search.

Tech Talk Gaggle on your Phone

You can have your Gaggle mail sent to your cell phone and send and receive Gaggle messages without logging on to a computer. All you need is a compatible phone and a data plan with your wireless provider.

Setup is pretty simple, but may vary by phone. In most cases, all you'll need is your email and password. Make sure that you enter your entire Gaggle address, not just your user name, or it won't be able to access your account.

If your setup asks for servers, use pop3.gaggle.net for incoming and smtp.gaggle.net for the outgoing server. If you see a box that says Log on using Secure Password Authentication, leave it unchecked. But the outgoing server DOES require authentication, so be sure to check that box. These settings can also be used to have your Gaggle mail delivered through a mail client, like Outlook or Apple Mail.

Check your phone's user manual for specific instructions.

Please don't hesitate to contact Gaggle's Sales or Customer Service staff if you have any questions!

800-288-7750
admin@gaggle.net