



The Gaggle

Bringing You a Gaggle of News Monthly

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A Unique Learning Experience Through Chat Rooms!

Last month's Gaggle newsletter focused on how to extend learning beyond the classroom walls through message boards. Gaggle offers educators another powerful tool to broaden the learning environment through chat rooms.

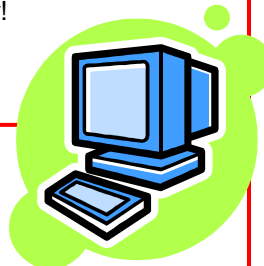
A chat room provides real time communication between two or more users via the internet. During a chat room session, any user can enter text in the chat room window on their computer, and the entered text will appear on the chat screen simultaneously for everyone participating in the chat. The Gaggle chat rooms even make a chiming sound when a new message is received in the chat room, so you do not have to stare at your computer screen during the entire chat session.

When it comes to supporting student achievement in your classroom, chat rooms provide many of the same functionalities as message boards. Chat rooms offer educators an excellent opportunity to conduct online discussions with their students, only this time it takes place in a real time environment.

Through chat rooms you can offer real time homework help to your students or live test reviews before the big exam. Chat rooms can also be used as a place for your students to communicate with a guest speaker or hold a live debate. The possibilities are endless!

Students also use online chat rooms extensively for socializing outside of school hours. The Gaggle chat rooms give your students a safe place to conduct this online socializing. Many other chat programs do not provide the same level of filtering and protection that the Gaggle chat rooms offer. All of the text in the chat room is filtered for inappropriate language and notices are sent to the student's administrator if they attempt to use inappropriate language. This way you do not necessarily need to be in the chat room at all times monitoring your students to be aware of inappropriate behavior.

Enrich your classroom today with this unique learning environment and give Gaggle chat rooms a try!



Curriculum Corner

Learn helpful ways to integrate technology into your daily classroom activities.

Cross District Chat Sessions

Gaggle chat rooms can be used for cross district chat sessions. Cross district chat sessions would involve people from different schools in your district. If the student councils from two different schools need to meet, they can hold their discussion through a chat room after school. Administrators can also use cross district chat rooms to hold committee or staff meetings that involve faculty members from multiple schools. This saves everyone the hassle of trying to find a centralized meeting place that meets everyone's needs. Using this method you can conduct your meeting without leaving your computer!

Training Tips

Learn helpful tricks about the Gaggle system here.

Chat Logs

Gaggle gives you a way to access copies of the chat logs for a chat room. Once a chat room is created, Gaggle begins keeping a log of all the activity that takes place in the chat room. You can view or print these chat logs to see exactly what had been taking place in the chat room when you are not there to supervise. These chat logs can be useful if you would like to save an online discussion or if you need them for disciplinary situations.

Kick Off Button

Gaggle offers teachers a **Kick Off** button in the chat rooms. If you see a student in the chat room using particularly bad behavior, you can use this button to kick them out of the chat room. This not only logs them off the chat room, it also turns off their chat room access and sends a message to their administrator explaining that they were kicked out of the chat rooms because of bad behavior. The **Kick Off** button is only available to educators.

Have you missed past issues of The Gaggle? Visit our newsletter archives page on our website to download all of our past issues or follow this link:

http://www.gaggle.net/gaggle/gaggle_archive.html

