



The Gaggle

Bringing You a Gaggle of News

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New Password Policies

Gaggle takes safety seriously, and that includes making sure that only the owner of an account can log in to it. Passwords are not viewable in our system, though a teacher or administrator can drill into a lower level account and reset the password when the owner has forgotten it.

We've recently added a system that will help you access your account if you forget your password. On our homepage, there is a link in the login box that says, "Reset your password?" that will take you to a page where you can put in your Gaggle address. The system will then send a message to your outside email account listed in your Gaggle user data that includes a link to access your account and reset your own password.

To set your outside address in Gaggle, go to My Account in the upper right corner. On that tab, there is a box where you can put in your school or personal email address. You may also see a screen prompting you to put in an outside address when you log in. That prompt has an option to skip that step, as well as a box to check if you don't want to be asked again. Users will be prompted to update their outside email address every 3 months.

If you do not have an outside account, the message with the access link will be sent to your assigned administrator (for students) or the default administrator for your school (for educators). Currently, students using the password link will have the message sent to their assigned administrator. But a password retrieval option for students will be added to the School Setup page in a few weeks. Choosing that option will allow the password retrieval to work for students just as it does for teachers.

Another new feature in Gaggle will let you assign a temporary password to multiple accounts. This is especially helpful at the start of the year when a lot of people have forgotten their passwords over the summer. Once set, users can log in either with their own password, or the temporary password (and they'll be prompted to set a new one). You'll find this feature on the User List at the bottom of the settings tab. Highlight the users you want to affect, type in the temporary password, and click Save.

Please contact customer service at 800-288-7750 or email admin@gaggle.net if you have questions about these new features.

Free Webinars

We've had requests for more Webinar offerings on the new Velocity interface, so we've scheduled a couple more this month. We are also offering two specialized webinars on topics for the end-of-school. All webinars run about 45 minutes. You'll need Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox to participate, and speakers on your computer to hear the audio. Click the links below to register.

Intro to Velocity

Thur, May 14th 3:00pm CDT
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/741457811>

Intro to Velocity

Wed, May 20th 4:00pm CDT
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/492692370>

Getting Ready for Summer

Mon, May 18th 3:00pm CDT
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/141906994>

Vacation Blogging

Tue, May 26st 3:00pm CDT
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/532774618>

Watch for more webinars on various Gaggle topics starting in the fall. If you've got a topic request, please email it to us at admin@gaggle.net.

Last Chance to Win \$500!!

The teachers who have sent in lesson plans for our Curriculum Contest have a high chance of winning the Grand Prize! Submit your lessons using Gaggle in any subject area by May 30th for your chance to win! The best lesson this month will get a \$50 Visa Gift Card, and an entry in the random drawing June 1st for a \$500 Visa Gift Card. Visit the Curriculum Contest link on our homepage, www.gaggle.net to download the form to submit your lesson, or see the lessons on our blog at www.gaggle.net/blog/curriculumcontest





Schools Spotlight Millard Public Schools, Nebraska

Millard Public Schools in Omaha, Nebraska has used Gaggle in their schools for many years. In fact, we refer to them as O.G., Original Gaggle. They've always been at the forefront of technology, and many improvements and features exist today because of their suggestions.

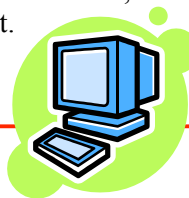
Millard uses a couple optional services we offer that make the task of monitoring students' activity simple. Our Human Monitoring System is the first step for all blocked messages and notices of other Gaggle violations in their entire district. A Gaggle employee takes care of the routine deleting and unblocking, and forwards any true violations to an assigned teacher. This eliminates most of the workload for the teachers, and allows for consistent enforcement of policies across the district.

Because they use HMS, students' blocked messages are reviewed very quickly, even on evenings and weekends, and during school holidays when most teachers wouldn't be checking Gaggle. Because of this increased monitoring, MPS has been able to intervene in some potentially dangerous situations. Gaggle employees have reviewed messages indicating potential issues of student safety, contacted the assigned administrator, and provided information that allowed school officials to step in.

Another optional service Millard has added to assist in student monitoring is the use of Parent Accounts. Every parent can access their own Gaggle account that links directly to their children's accounts. They can view their email, locker files, and blogs. Dr. Mark Feldhausen, their Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, wanted parents to be able to help monitor their students' email use. Parents are also able to check their students' Digital Lockers and read their Blogs. Teachers and parents can easily email each other as well, without having to share and keep track of multiple email addresses.

Millard students and teachers are active users of Gaggle's email and features in their daily school activities. Like many districts today, MPS is working to provide 21st Century tools in their classrooms, while keeping students safe and helping their teachers focus on the core job of teaching.

If you'd like more information about Gaggle's Human Monitoring System or Parent Accounts, please call our Sales Department at 877-262-4244, or email admin@gaggle.net.



Ask Admin

Question: I'm the assigned administrator for my kids, but our vice-principal is getting their blocked messages. Why aren't they in my Blocked folder?

Answer: Your vice-principal is assigned as the administrator on your account. Educators' accounts should not have an admin assigned, as this forces the account through the student filters. So whatever triggered the student blocking, is also blocked coming into your account, so it goes to your vice-principal. Change your Admin to blank on your user data to solve this problem.

Tech Talk Get Ready for Summer

It's a good idea to clean out Gaggle before leaving for the summer. Teacher-created User Groups, Message Boards, Chat Rooms, and Homework Drop Boxes usually change year to year. So deleting those at the end of the school year will make it easier to start fresh in the fall.

It's also important to decide whether students will be allowed to use their accounts during the summer break. Many students use email during vacation to keep in touch with their friends. But monitoring is an important part of the safety of Gaggle, so make sure someone is checking their blocked messages while school is out.

If you will allow summer access, think about encouraging students to keep a summer blog about their vacation. This is a great way to sneak in some summer writing practice! You can also keep your own blog to stay connected with previous students and give new ones a chance to get to know you.

If students will not be allowed to use Gaggle during the vacation, their accounts can either be deleted completely, allowing you to start with a clean slate in the fall, or they can be set to a Suspended or Reserved access level. Reserved will bounce back any incoming messages, while Suspended will accept them so they can be read once access is allowed.

Sign up for our free webinars if you'd like more information on cleaning up for summer, or using blogs.

Please don't hesitate to contact Gaggle's Sales or Customer Service staff if you have any questions! 800-288-7750 admin@gaggle.net