



The Gaggle

Bringing you a Gaggle of News

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Let Them Use Gaggle!



Free Webinars

Most Americans would agree that today's students need to learn 21st century skills, and that means using 21st century technology. And most schools incorporate technology into their classrooms. But the level of integration into daily teaching and learning can vary widely not only from school to school, but even from classroom to classroom. The challenge of effectively implementing technology in schools is universal, but is one that must be overcome if the United States hopes to improve our slipping ranking in educational quality.

While it is important for district and school leadership to promote new tools and services, a top down approach is usually not enough to ensure successful use of technology in most classrooms. And in many cases, a district purchases and creates accounts for all of the students, but they don't ever get to use them if one of their teachers doesn't introduce Gaggle in their class. So could the students benefit

from Gaggle even if their teachers don't use it in instruction? Absolutely!!!

Students rarely need training in technology, and can usually become resources for teachers once they've gotten logged in to their accounts. Today's digital natives will explore everything they can find in Gaggle, and become experts quickly. The ability to communicate and collaborate with each other can have a positive effect on student achievement, even if their teachers aren't formally using it for instruction. The Digital Lockers give kids an easy way to save and access school work from school and home. And blogs are popular for self expression, especially in the intermediate and middle grades.

So even if you or your colleagues aren't ready to use Gaggle yourselves, consider getting the accounts into your students' hands. You never know where they might lead you!

Register for one or more of our free training webinars! Click the link below to choose your session(s). You must use your Gaggle email address to register. You will be sent your personal webinar log in within 3 business days.

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

This month's webinar will cover options for summer settings and projects.

Have a Great Gaggle Summer!

Wednesday, April 21st
4:00 pm-4:45 pm

Tuesday, April 27th
3:30 pm-4:15 pm

Thursday, May 6th
5:00 pm-5:45 pm

Wednesday, May 12th
4:00 pm-4:45 pm

[Click here to register!](#)

Curriculum Corner

You can start your own Professional Learning Community using a school or district-wide Gaggle message board for teachers. Gaggle also has Educator Message Boards available in your Message Boards list to connect with teachers around the world to share lesson plans, get feedback, or find key pals. We want to support educators, so if you've got an idea for a specific Gaggle-wide educator board, let us know!



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School Spotlight

Catawba County Schools, North Carolina

Catawba County Schools near Charlotte, North Carolina, has over 17,000 students and over 1,000 classroom teachers. When you consider those numbers, it is clearly no small task to introduce the district to new technology resources that are available. Knowing that it takes time to educate teachers and students on new resources, Catawba started purchasing approximately 10,000 Gaggle accounts in 2004. They have since steadily increased to a current total of 14,000 accounts. As the district's years with Gaggle increases, so does their usage.

Scott Stuckey, Instructional Technology Facilitator, comments on how they present Gaggle to both their teachers and students. "We use a wide array of tools and training methods with Gaggle implementation. We first invite teachers to a demonstration which highlights Gaggle's features and then conduct the actual hands-on-training with their class so they can

see how the kids react to the program, and it allows the first student-teacher communications to take place in a controlled environment."

Catawba also uses data integration to create and manage accounts automatically. Mr. Stuckey states that, "Having all student accounts in the system all of the time allows for quick reaction when teachers decide to explore Gaggle with their students. At our upper grades, this also allows our students to use Gaggle on day one and throughout the year under the watchful eye of a school monitor - they don't need to wait for their teachers."

Given the fact that accounts are automatically created, students can log into Gaggle as easily as they put books in their locker. They are not waiting for a teacher to introduce Gaggle to them; they are logging in from the very start and putting the online resource to work.

Tech Talk

Keeping You Informed

Gaggle's programmers are constantly working to improve our system, fix any issues that come up, and develop new features. In order to keep our users informed, we maintain a System Status Blog. It will let you know if there is a release planned soon, some of the changes it will contain, or if there is a known current issue that may affect you.

You can access that from the link on our home page, or go directly to our [System Status Blog](#). You can bookmark the blog or subscribe to the RSS feed. Coming in a couple weeks, you'll also be able to check it using a new Portal Link on your Jump To menu when you are logged in to your Gaggle account.

And if you need additional assistance, don't forget our Live Chat available on your Jump To menu in Gaggle during our standard business hours.

ASK ADMIN...

Question: I created a signature in my Gaggle account. Why don't I see it when I send a message?

Answer: Gaggle adds the signature after you click the Send button, so you won't see it on the bottom of your email as you are typing your message. If you look at any replies you receive from a message you sent, or send yourself an email to test it, you will see your signature.

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

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