



Re: Student Access to Google Apps for Education with School District #62 (Sooke)

It is an exciting time for teaching and learning in our School District as we are working to equip students with the skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly digital world, as critical thinkers, researchers, innovators, global communicators, collaborators, and life-long learners. To that end, we recognize the importance of online tools for learning and are committed to providing students access to digital technologies.

As a result, we are embracing the Google Apps for Education (GAFE) suite of online tools. GAFE is designed specifically for K-12 school districts and universities and provides access to a powerful suite of school district managed online collaboration and productivity tools, in a secure, private and ad-free environment, with more control and protection than an individual Google/Gmail account. GAFE is currently used by thousands of schools and post-secondary institutions, with tens of millions of student accounts around the world.

As a public school district, we are subject to the *BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. In accordance with this Act, we must at all times protect the privacy of students under our care. Therefore teachers and students will be provided with information on how to use their GAFE account in ways that avoid posting private and personal information that could be used to identify themselves or other persons.

On the reverse of this letter you will find a consent form that will allow your son/daughter access to a Google Apps for Education account. While this is not an educational requirement for your student, we hope that you will see the value in providing these tools for your son/daughter. If you choose to grant permission, please sign the consent form and return it to the school. Your son/daughter's classroom teacher will then provide further instructions on how to access the new collaboration system.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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