Dear Administrators and Teachers,

There are many different forms of communication used today that are taught in our schools. Email is one form that is quickly becoming the preferred method of communication for most adults, for both personal and business applications. It is important for students to become proficient in this tool in order to be successful adults, and our state education standards include technology and electronic communication.

In order to meet these standards, and give our students hands on experience with email, we have obtained safe email accounts through Gaggle.Net. Gaggle.Net is a safe, web-based Internet system for students where the teacher is always in control. They provide numerous tools that protect our students from the potential problems of email and social networking. The school controls what level of access the students have and whom they can communicate with, and can set it to be as restricted as necessary. All messages pass through a number of filters. Messages with offensive language, questionable domains, banned file types, or pornographic images are automatically rerouted to the student's teacher for review. Gaggle uses a unique Anti-Pornography Scanner, and Blocked Word lists that are customizable by our school.

The use of student email provides multiple benefits to both you and your students.
  ➢ Communication between you and your students will be greatly improved. Through email, you become more accessible to your students, allowing them to communicate more freely with you both during the school day and during non-school hours. Many students who are normally reluctant to ask for help or talk to educators in person, will find the privacy of email more comfortable and will be more likely to get the help they need to improve their performance.
  ➢ Collaboration with other students is not only an important experience in education, but important training for their future in the work world. Students can easily work with peers on projects, and engage in content discussions. Since you can drill into their email, you can even assess their collaboration efforts.
  ➢ Email can also be used to allow students to communicate and collaborate with community members if you choose. This can improve the school's relationship with the community, and allow for extended learning experiences with experts in content areas.

In addition to email, other forms of electronic communication have become popular with today's tech savvy population. Sharing ideas and opinions on message boards, in chat rooms, and through blogs is common for students outside of school. Educators can utilize these types of activities to motivate learners and extend the classroom experience beyond the traditional classroom. Gaggle provides these tools in a controlled environment, supervised by teachers and protected by the same filtering systems that make email safe.

These advanced features can supplement or replace existing lessons to meet standards in any curriculum area.
  ➢ Use Message Boards for dynamic content discussions that stimulate higher level thinking. Students will have time to formulate responses as they use their knowledge for analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Participation can be easily measured and postings can be

assessed. Gaggle's boards can be created for specific users, allowing for discreet and effective differentiation.

➢ Blogs foster creativity and improved writing skills by providing a safe venue for personal expression. Students can use them as an online journal, or for class assignments, like book shares, current events, or virtual travel blogs. Teachers can use their blog as a class webpage to share assignments, links, and images.

➢ Chat Rooms can be used for real time discussions or debates with other classes or schools, or for test review or academic games.

➢ Digital Lockers allow students to store documents and projects online, and access them from home or anywhere they have web access. They can choose to share certain files, allowing for collaboration and group projects.

➢ Homework Drop Boxes can be utilized to communicate with your students what assignments have been given in the classroom and can provide access to homework information wherever the student has internet access. Teachers can then create an assignment (post) that their students can complete and submit back to. When students are absent from school, they will know to check their drop box to see what assignments need completed. Also, other Gaggle users can also be given access to a drop box even if they are not a member of the district. This may be a good tool for sharing curriculum ideas.

We are excited about providing email to our students, and confident that by using Gaggle.Net as our provider, we are putting safety first. You can visit www.gaggle.net for more information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO READ BEFORE YOU GET STARTED!!!

The following link will take you to a series of Gaggle video tutorials that can answer most questions concerning the use of Gaggle accounts: Gaggle Educator Training Videos (https://www.gaggle.net/training_videos/video_list.html).

Student User Names and Passwords:

User Name = Student ID Number@nppsd.gaggle.net (This also serves as a student's email address)

Password = Lunch PIN

Staff User Name and Passwords:

User Name = Infinite Campus User Name@nppsd.gaggle.net (This also serves as a teacher's Gaggle email address & this mail can be forwarded to First Class email accounts)

Password = nps0910

Monitoring:

Each elementary student has been assigned to their classroom teacher and that teacher will have access to monitor student email use and will be notified of any flagged email that may be deemed inappropriate by the Gaggle filter. The teacher and administrator can then determine whether any action is necessary.

Students at Adams Middle School are assigned in the same way to their AAA teacher, Madison Middle School students are assigned to their M Bark teacher, and high school students are assigned to their Language Arts/English teacher or to a high school administrator.

It is important for teachers to check their Gaggle email at least once a week to see if any of their assigned student's emails have been flagged! Most times the flagged mail is not a problem and can be forwarded on, but the assigned teacher is responsible to check that account in order to facilitate other teachers and students that will utilize this email system. Granted, not all teachers will use this tool in their particular classrooms; however, responsibility to monitor the Gaggle mail system is being shared district wide via individual teachers as outlined above.

We are excited to roll out this resource to you today and thank you for your patience as we continue to work to make this happen. Please continue to be understanding as we work through any bugs in the system. Remember to utilize the video tutorials and help files as you get started.

If you require assistance for user names and/or passwords please contact Debbie Johnson in the technology department via email or call 696-3346.

Thank you,
NPPSD Technology Department