

AP334 – 4 Parent Letter for Google Apps for Education

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Abbotsford School District supports literacy including digital literacy for all students and staff. To this end, we are committed to providing our students and teachers with access to excellent learning resources and tools to enable them to thrive in an increasingly digital world. We are pleased to be able to offer our students an opportunity to use a collection of digital tools designed to empower their learning and prepare them to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

The Abbotsford School District provides teachers and students access to an Abbotsford Google Apps for Education (GAFE) account upon receipt of a signed consent form. GAFE is a suite of online tools and is designed specifically for education grades 4-12, and university, providing access to powerful district-managed online collaboration and productivity resources. GAFE is currently used by thousands of school districts and post-secondary institutions, with over 40 million student accounts around the world. GAFE is also the service through which students log in securely to district Chromebook laptops.

Some of the features of Google Apps for Education are:

- secure login to district Chromebook laptops
- a private and ad-free environment with no sharing or selling of information to third parties
- no scanning or data mining of student information in GAFE Drive, Docs, Classroom, or Gmail
- ownership of data by the school district, not Google
- the ability for a school district to control, monitor and filter student use for safety and security

As a B.C. school district, we are subject to the B.C. 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, staff and students will be provided with training on how to use their Google account in ways that avoid the use of private student information.

Through the Abbotsford GAFE platform, students will have access to:

- Secure login to district-supplied Chromebook laptops
- Google Drive - unlimited online storage for files
- Google Docs - an online productivity and collaboration tool for creating documents, presentations, spreadsheets, and forms
- Google Classroom - a powerful online classroom resource that increases collaboration and communication among and between students and teachers
- Google Mail - a district hosted Gmail account, for internal district usage primarily for assignment notifications

Please read the acceptable use guidelines and if you choose to grant permission, please sign the consent form and return it to the school. Your child's teacher will then provide further instructions on how to access GAFE.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

D. Ennis

District Vice-Principal, Digital Learning – Curriculum Department