



The Gaggle

Bringing You a Gaggle of News

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Digital Lockers

Gaggle.Net is comprised of many different tools to help teachers and students succeed in the classroom. Although we are primarily known for our email services, we also have a number of other resources that can be used to expand your classroom and incorporate the ever-growing technology field into the students' everyday lives. One of these resources is our Digital Lockers.

Digital lockers provide online storage space that enables students and teachers to store their files on our servers and access them at home. There are many different privacy options associated with the lockers that the teachers can control. Students can mark the files as Private, so only they can download them. They can choose to share the file as School Public, which will let other students download that file. This is a great way to incorporate group work into the lesson plans.

Digital lockers can be a great tool for teachers as well. For example, you can post your study guides in your locker. Your students would then be able to access them and print them from home. Digital Lockers for your school can be accessed through the Directory by clicking the Locker link to the right of the user's name. Clicking someone else's locker will only display those files they have chosen to share.

Also, students can download from another student's locker, but can only upload them to their own. If the teacher needs to see Private or recently deleted locker files, they can always be accessed through the User List. Keep in mind that files in the digital lockers do count toward overall storage. If you are using the advertising supported version of Gaggle you have 2.5 megabytes of storage while the subscription version of Gaggle you have 75 megabytes.

Digital lockers can be a great tool for you and your students. They can extend the classroom by allowing students to access files and projects from home. Group projects can be more effective when students are able to easily share the files and work on them outside of class time. They also eliminate the possibility of exposing school computers to viruses through the use of cd-roms and flash drives.



Curriculum Corner

The default options for the Digital Locker access can be found on the School Setup page. "Can Store District and School Public Files" allows files to be accessed by other school and district users. "Can Store School Public Files" means that only users in the school can access them. Finally, "Can Only Store Private Files" will not allow any files to be shared. The teachers, however, can always access all files through the student's listing under the User List. For teachers, there is also an option to mark the files as Internet Public which would allow access from the Profile Page.

Locker Filtering

All files that are placed into a student's digital locker go through a couple of different filtering systems. The first aspect of Gaggle's filtering capabilities is our Anti-Pornography Scanner (APS). Our APS system scans all pictures and gives them a point value based on criteria such as flesh tones and lighting. Once the threshold is met, the system blocks the image. You may see some false positives with our APS. You can adjust the setting of the scanner from low to medium or high on the School Setup page.

Our second filtering system is our Blocked Word lists. The Gaggle system scans documents for certain words that may be inappropriate. If it finds a word on the list, the file will immediately be sent to the student's administrator. He or she can then review the file. The administrator has the option to unblock the file, delete the file, or keep it for discussion with the involved parties. These lists are constantly being updated with new words and phrases that find their way into the hallways at schools. We also offer a Spanish blocked word list. The level of the word lists can be adjusted and customized to fit your schools' needs.

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