



The Gaggle

Bringing you a Gaggle of News

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Just Say No to Flash Drives!



Free Webinars

Call it a flash drive, thumb drive, or memory stick, these portable storage devices are a common item on many middle and high school student supply lists. They are often the only way to allow students to save and transport files and assignments from home to school. So parents spend \$15 and up on the drives, and often have to replace them during the school year as they get broken or misplaced, so the cost can add up, especially for families with multiple children in school.

And the potential cost to schools is even higher, as use of flash drives presents a major threat to school computers in the form of viruses and malware. Last year, East Providence Schools in Rhode Island spent \$25,000 to clean up over 1,000 computers after a virus was introduced in their network, possibly through a jump drive. And an especially malicious Trojan virus cost a Chicago district \$325,000 when it siphoned money from their district bank accounts!

Gaggle's Digital Lockers provide online storage for files and documents, so many schools using our subscription accounts ban the use of portable storage devices by their students. The 200MB of space in each locker lets a student store work and then access it from home and school. Gaggle scans every file for viruses during both the upload and download, which adds an extra layer of protection for both the school and home computers. And the ability to mark specific files to be shared with others adds a potential for collaboration that jump drives don't offer.

Some schools have even added the low cost of a Gaggle account to their annual student activity or tech fee. Once parents realize they no longer have to provide more expensive, easily-lost USB drives, they are usually happy to support this use of funds for technology.

Register for our new **webinar** to learn more about **Digital Lockers!**

Register for one or more of our free training webinars! Click the link below, 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 settings and use of our Digital Lockers and Homework Drop Boxes.

“Navigate, Integrate, and Designate with Digital Lockers and Homework Drop Boxes”

Thursday, March 18th
4:00 pm-4:45 pm

Tuesday, March 23rd
3:30 pm-4:15 pm

Wednesday, March 31st
5:00 pm-5:45 pm

Tuesday, April 6th
4:00 pm-4:45 pm

[Click here to register!](#)

Curriculum Corner

Take advantage of your own Digital Locker to provide learning materials to your students. Supplemental information and extension activities can be stored in your locker for students to download at school or home. It is an easy way to give access to the wealth of information most teachers have, and can also save on expensive printing costs for your school and parents. Just be sure to mark any files you want available to students as School Public or higher.



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School Spotlight

Fountaindale School, Washington County Public Schools

Washington County Public Schools educates more than 21,000 students in Western Maryland, and is a leader in technology integration. Since 2007, the district has incorporated Gaggle into their classrooms to reach their technology standards. Although the initial accounts were for the secondary schools, elementary teachers jumped on board after learning about the benefits during the district's Summer Technology Academy.

Jaclyn Chaney is a 5th grade teacher in the magnet program at Fountaindale School for the Arts and Academic Excellence. This year is her first using Gaggle, and it has quickly become an integral part of her classroom and curriculum.

Her students started the year learning the basics of Gaggle and technology, from writing email and uploading files, to learning how to copy and paste and insert tables. The students were so eager to learn more, Jaclyn began holding small

group sessions on topics like "Organizing Documents into Folders," and "Sharing Documents with Classmates."

The Digital Lockers have become indispensable to Jaclyn's students. As she says, they upload *everything!* Examples are thematic photos they use to represent themes in literature, Excel spreadsheets coordinating data from scientific investigations, and lots and lots of writing that she can easily access and provide feedback on.

In a recent assignment, Jaclyn used a Homework Drop Box for a paragraph from her students about how Gaggle has helped them in their learning. Said one pupil, "Gaggle has done so many things it's hard to pick the one I like most." Another wrote, "Gaggle has helped me organize my cluttered mess of work." And from Jaclyn, "The students have proven to be responsible and generous learners...and Gaggle has been a driving force!"

Tech Talk

Gaggle's Virtual Drives

Many schools and districts provide file storage for students on their own local servers, but this can be cost-prohibitive, and those files are only accessible to the students when they are on a school computer on the network.

Gaggle's Digital Lockers work well for short-term storage needs, but for saving files over the long run, more than 200MB will likely be needed. Gaggle's Virtual Drives (GVD) are a great solution. They look and feel like a hard drive on any computer a student logs into, so files can be saved in a single step. Gaggle's student filters and access rules apply every time the GVD is used, and you can be confident files are virus-free since they are scanned on every download and upload. Since the files are stored on Gaggle's servers, there's no maintenance for your tech team, and no worries about running out of space.

Gaggle's Virtual Drives can be purchased with 1GB, 2GB, or unlimited storage capability on an annual subscription.

ASK ADMIN...

Question: I have files in my Locker I want my students to access. I marked them School Public, but how do they get to them?

Answer: Click the + sign next to your Contacts folder to see the Directory link. Click Directory, then find user's name you wish to access. Click the Locker link to the right of that name to see any files that user has made public. You can also add links to download files to your blog by using the Add Image button on the blog entry screen, which connects to your Digital Locker.

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

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