

Dear Parents/Guardians of MPSD Students:

This fall, the Marshfield Public Schools will continue our digital learning focus with a few exciting initiatives. The district will begin to utilize Google Apps for Education (GAFE) to enhance the way we use technology and share information within and beyond our school community. All staff & students in grades 3-12 will be provided **G Suite for Education, formerly Google Apps for Education** accounts. G Suite for Education is a cloud based learning platform allowing teachers and students to create a range of documents online, email, share calendars and utilize storage to be accessed at home and school from any device. These tools will help us effectively meet our district goals of infusing 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills into our classrooms. G Suite for Education is also an essential initiative as we deploy multiple Chromebook carts to our elementary and middle school classrooms.

G Suite for Education tools include:

- Gmail: a full functioning e-mail program :
  - **Grades K-5 No Gmail**
  - **Grades 6-8 intra-district communication only**
  - **Grades 9-12 full email access**
- Google Calendar: a customizable calendar and to-do list
- GoogleApps: word processing, spreadsheet, presentation and drawing programs that allows multi-user access and editing
- Google Drive: file storage that integrates with Google Apps

To ensure the safety of our younger students, Google student domains for grades K-8 are “closed.” This means that students can only share documents with their teachers and other students within our environment. Please review our district’s Acceptable Use Policy and Internet Safety Guidelines as we start to introduce these tools to our students. Using online tools responsibly will be an important part of the learning experience. Please take time to review these guidelines with your child as well and discuss with them the importance of responsible Internet usage.

The second exciting initiative we are starting to pilot is Canvas, an easy-to-use, cloud-based learning management system (LMS) that connects all the digital tools and resources teachers use into one simple secure place. Canvas can be utilized as a simple webpage or an extension of the classroom as a interactive digital learning environment. It integrates seamlessly with hundreds of apps, empowering teachers and students with countless tools to make teaching and learning easier and more fun! Canvas is the foundation for our 1:1 Digital Learning Initiative at Marshfield High School and we are excited to see how it can be utilized across the district over the next few years.

Although these tools are not a required part of the curriculum, we hope they will join the “educator's toolbox” as effective ways to help us meet the goals of the district and most importantly impact student achievement.

David Cawthorne  
Director of Technology, Marshfield Public Schools

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