



The Gaggle

Bringing You a Gaggle of News Monthly

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Gaggle Blogs – Another Leap in Safe Student Technology!

By now you have most likely noticed the newest feature of the Gaggle system – Gaggle Blogs. Gaggle Blogs were developed to serve as a safe blogging solution to help protect your students from the dangers associated with typical blogging sites, such as MySpace.com and Facebook.com.

What makes Gaggle Blogs safer than other blog sites is you are in control. You can decide if access to your students' blogs is restricted to within the school or district, or opened to the outside world. You can also restrict who can comment on the blogs, hide full names and email addresses, prevent pictures, and much more. In fact, you can preview all blog entries and comments prior to being posted. And, of course, all of the safety features that protect your students with Gaggle email are also in place with Gaggle Blogs.

"As a leader in providing safe email to

students, we felt that building a safe student blog system was a natural fit," said Michael Kessler, Vice President of Gaggle. "While we love to see the advancement of technology, we have to question the safety with some of the emerging technologies. We felt that students needed a safer environment where they could express themselves," he added.

Teachers all over the country are finding new and innovative ways to incorporate this emerging technology into their classrooms and daily curriculum! Teachers can use blogs as a current event log, an online portfolio of student work (E-portfolio), or as a type of message board. Teachers can also have students share their research findings, creative writings, literature reviews, and so much more. The possibilities are endless, and with Gaggle Blogs, teachers can integrate the tools their students are already using at home into the classroom!

Training Tips

Learn helpful tricks about the Gaggle system [here](#).

Blog Settings

You can set or change the blog settings for all of your students by clicking on the *Blog Settings* link at the bottom of your School Setup page. This is where you can decide who has access to view and post comments to your students' blogs.

Finding Student Blogs

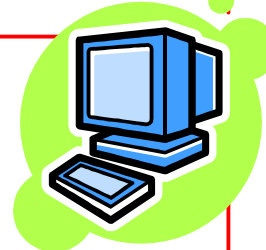
You can find your students' blogs by going to your Directory page. Simply click on the *Blog* link next to a student's name to go to that student's blog. If the *Blog* link is not bold and underlined, then that student has not yet created a blog.

Curriculum Corner

Learn helpful ways to integrate technology into your daily classroom activities.

Current Event Log with Gaggle Blogs

Students can post a weekly blog entry on a current event that is happening in their local community, the country, or the world. They can write a short paragraph about the event and post a picture related to it in their blog. This activity not only helps students develop their writing and reading comprehension skills, but it also helps keep them aware of what is going on around the world.



Win a FREE iPod Shuffle!

Send us your favorite way to use technology in your classroom! Each month, the top 5 curriculum ideas will be entered into a drawing to win a free iPod Shuffle. You might see your idea in the Curriculum Corner in the upcoming months! Please email your curriculum ideas to elizabethc@gaggle.net.