



The Gaggler

Bringing You a Gaggle of News Monthly

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Get Ready for Summer Vacation

As the school year winds down, teachers are busy organizing, sorting, and throwing things away in their classrooms, to make the return to a bright new year easier come fall. The same can be done with your Gaggle accounts. A little cleanup and a few decisions now will leave you ready to start Gaggling with your new class after vacation.

You and your students can check your folders and Digital Locker for messages and files that can be deleted. Locker files you will want again for next year can be kept, but you may want to mark them as Private. Message Boards and Chat Rooms for the past year's classes can be deleted.

You'll also need to decide what to do with the students' accounts over the summer. Since students often use their Gaggle account to keep in touch with friends, leaving the accounts active is something they appreciate. In this case, though, be sure you or another educator is monitoring them to ensure they are being used appropriately. You will also have to decide if features like

message boards and chat rooms are available. If you'd like to simplify monitoring, you can forward your Gaggle account to your summer email address on your User Options page.

If you'd rather not have to monitor blocked messages, you can either restrict student access or delete the accounts. Setting students to Reserved will prevent them from logging in, but keep the accounts intact so you can open them in the fall, moving the students to their proper school or new teacher. Deleting the accounts will let you start fresh in the fall instead of weeding through the list to reassign administrators and reset access levels, but be sure to give kids a chance to save anything they want to keep.



Curriculum Corner

Give students some alternatives to watching TV this summer! You can encourage summer reading by using Message Boards for a Vacation Reading Contest. Create Boards by grade level or school and have students post weekly about the books they are reading. When school starts in the fall, give out prizes for posting. You can also have kids use their Blog to journal about their summer activities.

Velocity Update

Our programmers continue to work on perfecting our new Velocity interface, with a planned rollout this fall. Here are some more new features that will really ramp up your Gaggle experience!

For educators with a School Administrator or higher access level, there are some new tools that will simplify your management of Gaggle. An Admin Search tool will allow you to search your school or district for an account, either by user name or full name. Message searching lets you use Boolean search terms to locate specific messages in any account(s) in your school or district that you have access to. A Mass Delete feature can be used to locate and pull out a message from your users' accounts.

All users will benefit from an improved digital locker that allows you to create multiple folders to organize your files. Keep checking The Gaggler for updates on Velocity!

Please don't hesitate to contact Gaggle's Customer Service staff if you have any questions!
800-288-7750
admin@gaggle.net