

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

It is an exciting time for teaching and learning in the Greater Victoria School District as we work to equip our students with the skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly digital world. We recognize the significance of access to appropriate digital technologies and are embracing the use of the Google Apps for Education (GAFE) suite of online tools for students in grades 4 through 12.

GAFE is designed specifically for K-12 school districts and universities and is a powerful suite of school district managed online collaboration and productivity tools. It is a secure, private and ad-free environment and offers more control and protection than an individual Google/Gmail account. GAFE is currently used by thousands of schools and post-secondary institutions, with tens of millions of student accounts around the world.

As a public institution, we are subject to the *BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. In accordance with this Act, we must at all times protect the privacy of students under our care. Therefore students will receive instruction on how to use their district managed GAFE account in ways that avoid posting private and personal information. Detailed information on the GVSD GAFE offering, including a list of educational uses, privacy, and acceptable and unacceptable use can be accessed at: www.sd61.bc.ca/gafe.

The following Google Apps for Education services apply to students (Grades 9-12):

- GAFE email account
- Google Drive (unlimited storage, including docs, sheets, slides, forms, and drawing)
- Google Calendar, Google Sites and Google Classroom

This letter is to inform you that your child can receive a GAFE account by providing their consent through an online request process from the School District's website.

If you have questions about the intended use of GAFE in your child's learning, please speak with your child's principal or teacher.

Sincerely,



Ted Pennell
Director of Informational Technology