

Google Apps for Education FAQ

What is Google Apps for Education?

Google Apps for Education (GAFE) is a suite of free, web-based programs that includes email, document creation, shared calendars, and collaboration tools, hosted by Google and managed by MNSD. GAFE will provide the ability for MNSD students, faculty and staff to communicate, store files and collaborate on documents, spreadsheets, and presentations in real time from school, work, home, or any place with an internet connection all within a secure "MNSD Bubble" online environment.

What can my student/child do with Google Apps?

Students will have easy access to real-time document, spreadsheet, and presentation creation tools within their Google Drive. Students will also have additional storage for other files they may need to use between home and school. Each student is provided with 30 GB of storage on their Google Drive.

What if I don't have a computer, how is my child going to get to use it?

The use of MNSD Google Apps for Education is part of the instructional program and students have many opportunities to work in their MNSD Google Apps account during the school day. Because MNSD Google Apps for Education is safe and web based, it can be accessed from the public library or other places where computers are available.

How will my child access MNSD Google Apps for Education?

With teacher guidance, students must first activate their GAFE account and use their school assigned password to log in. Once the student has an active account, there are a variety of ways to access GAFE:

- Go to <http://www.google.com> and log in using his or her full GAFE mail address (username@academic.mnsd.org) and password.

Will we be subjected to advertisements?

No. "There are no advertisements used with Google Apps for Education."

Does Google own the data we put into Google Apps?

"To put it simply, Google does not own your data. We do not take a position on whether the data belongs to the institution signing up for Apps, or the individual user (that's between the two of you), but we know it doesn't belong to us!"

Will Google sell our information to others?

"Google does not share or reveal private user content such as email or personal information with third parties except as required by law, on request by a user or system administrator, or to protect our systems."

Why can't my child e-mail me with this account?

MNSD Google Apps is the "MNSD Bubble." The "MNSD Bubble" will not allow students to send or receive email outside of the MNSD Google Apps domain. Even parents, relatives or friends will not be able to email students at his or her @academic.mnsd.org address, nor will students be able to email them.

My child already has a Gmail account, why can't they use that one?

MNSD Google Apps mail will work only within our secured environment. An outside Gmail account would not provide the student to email, collaborate or share with other students in the @academic.mnsd.org domain.

Do these apps work on an iPad or other tablet?

Google Apps documents may be edited using a mobile browser. Although a desktop or laptop is preferred and provides easier use to create, collaborate and share.

Can parents use it?

Only MNSD employees and MNSD students can access MNSD Google Apps for Education.

Can I see what my child is doing on Google Apps? Will there be a Parent View account?

No there is not a Parent View account. Parents are encouraged to explore Google Apps with their children by logging in together. Your children can show you what they are currently working on in class, as well as items that have been “turned in” and commented on by the teacher.

Online security – How protected is my student from outside people?

MNSD takes security and privacy of student information very seriously. MNSD Google Apps is not accessible by anyone outside of FRSD, so your student will be able to work and collaborate in a safe and secure online environment.

What about Privacy?

MNSD is responsible for protecting and safeguarding the confidentiality of student information. MNSD has contracted with Google to provide access to Google Apps for Education to its users (students and staff) in a closed and secure environment that is not accessible by anyone outside of MNSD. Google Apps is governed by detailed privacy policy and security measures which FCPS has reviewed and is satisfied they appropriately protect the privacy of its users of these tools. Under our Terms of Service Agreement with Google, like MNSD, they are obligated to comply with FERPA regulations.

Does my child retain copyright of their creations?

The same copyright rules apply to content in GAFE that would apply to any other creation, provided the student is the sole owner.

What protection will MNSD provide so that my child is not accessing inappropriate content on the web?

There are no advertisements used with Google Apps for Education.