



August 2011

Dear John Muir Parents/Guardians,

This fall, all students in the Wausau School District will be supplied with a new resource, Google Apps for Education. Google Apps is a set of online tools for communication, collaboration, time-management, and document storage. Provided by Google to the district at no cost, these tools include:

- Gmail: a full functioning e-mail program
- Calendar: a customizable calendar and to-do list
- Contacts: an address book
- GoogleDocs: a word processing, spreadsheet, presentation and drawing program that allows multi-user access and editing
- Google continues to add new tools and the district will evaluate each for its educational potential

All of these tools are housed on the Internet and can be accessed from any Internet-connected computer with a web-browser. No special software is required. In addition, no hard drives or USB drives are needed to store student files. Our primary reasons for supplying these tools to students are:

- To give our students practice in using current technology applications and tools
- To give students the ability to work on common, no-cost tools on their own documents both at school and outside of school
- To facilitate “paperless” transfer of work between students and teachers
- To provide adequate (seven gigabyte) long-term storage space for student work
- To help students work collaboratively, engage in peer-editing of documents, and publish for a wider audience

There is also a cost savings to the district since fewer licenses for commercial copies of programs will need to be purchased and less file storage space will need to be maintained.

Teachers will be reviewing our district’s acceptable use policy and Internet safety guidelines when they introduce these tools to students. Using online tools responsibly will be an important part of the learning experience.

Google requires that all students under the age of 13 have parental permission in order for school districts to create accounts for younger students. Therefore, we ask that you authorize permission for your child to participate in the benefits of Google Apps by signing below and returning this form. If you have further questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact either me or Corey Jeffers, 7th Grade Literacy Teacher.

Sincerely,

Dean R. Hess
Principal

I give permission for my child, _____, to participate in Google Apps and to create a Gmail account.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date