A Parent's Guide to

Q: What is Google Apps for Education?

A: Google Apps for Education (GAFE) is a suite of web-based productivity tools that is made available to school districts at no cost. Businesses and schools all over the world, including colleges and K-12 institutions, are using these products.

Q: What products are included in the GAFE suite?

A: Google Apps for Education includes a wide variety of applications, but the two primary apps that students will use at our schools include **Gmai**l and **Google Drive**

Gmail is a full-featured email account and **Google Drive** is an online file storage system with the ability to create documents, spreadsheets, and presentations. All items can be shared with other students as well as educators. Drive eliminates the need for students to save their work to removable media and allows students to access their saved work from any Internet-connected computer or device.

Q: Does the district filter the content that my child is allowed to access when using their GAFE account at school?

A: Yes, the district has two specific filters in place to safeguard our students. While students are working in GAFE on a school network, an Internet content filter checks all Internet traffic and per rules established by the district's technology team, blocks students from gaining access to inappropriate content, such as pornography, drugs, and violence. Additionally all email messages that pass through the Gmail system are searched for specific keywords and appropriate actions taken to help ensure students safety.

The Internet is a dynamic place and while we employ industry standard products for filtering some undesirable content may be accessible. The rules and consequences that are a part of the Acceptable Use Policy that all students and parents must sign before a student receives his/her network accounts are applicable to all uses of GAFE.

Q: I monitor all of my child's online activities, so can I log in to my child's account to see what he/she is doing?

A: Yes, we encourage parents to explore Google Apps with their children and to look over the things they are doing with these tools. You can request the student user ID and password from your child or the school can provide that upon request.

Q: Will my child be exposed to advertisements as they use GAFE?

A: No, advertising is turned off for all Google Apps for Education accounts.

Q: Will my child be allowed access to YouTube while at school?

A: Google offers a special YouTube channel for education called YouTube EDU. When students browse to YouTube, they are re-directed to this special channel where the content is geared towards education and is appropriate for students. Additionally DCSD teachers are adding videos daily that they feel will be beneficial in the lessons your student is learning.

Q: Will my child be allowed to use Google+?

A: Only students 13 or older are allowed to create a Google+ account. Students who utilize Google+ are held to the same standards for conduct and behavior that they are for all other forms of communication.

Q: What about my child's privacy online?

A concern that many parents have is privacy. To read more about Google's privacy policy, please visit https://www.google.com/edu/trust/index.html