

What is Google Apps for Education?

Google Apps for Education streamlines and organizes student work. Flash drives are no longer needed. All student documents and presentations will be stored online and will be accessible from home, school, and anywhere there is an Internet connection. There are four main components:

- Drive - a word processing, spreadsheet, drawing, and presentation toolset that is very similar to Microsoft Office that allows up to 30 GB of free storage
- Calendar - an online calendar providing the ability to organize schedules, daily activities, and assignments
- Sites - an individual and collaborative website creation tool
- Mail - an email account for school use managed and monitored by Seeds of Health provided to 6th graders and up

Why use Google Apps for Education?

Seeds of Health is committed to integrating current educational technology and assisting you in preparing your child to be a productive, contributing citizen in the 21st Century. Granting students' access to Google Apps for Education aligns with this commitment, it encourages students to think critically and collaborate in a safe, online learning environment. A Google Apps for Education account:

- increases student access to teachers
- provides online file storage space available anytime, anywhere
- allows teachers to share files with students and provides additional ways to assess student learning
- extends the classroom learning environment to the home
- facilitates group projects and encourages collaboration among students and staff
- provides students with the opportunity to build an electronic portfolio of their school learning experiences

How does this affect my student(s)?

When using Google Apps for Education, students will be expected to adhere to the Student Acceptable Use Policy signed at enrollment. In addition, teachers will be going over a Google Apps for Education User Expectations/Policy (see enclosed) with students the first week of school as well as completing some basic training on using this new tool. The use of these and other online tools should be limited to instructional and school-related activities.

We encourage you to participate with your child in his/her online activities. Our students create amazing work when they collaborate with one another. However, as with any other online pursuit, your involvement in their work is beneficial to their development as an informed user of the Internet.