

Fall 2015

Dear Teachers at Bloomfield Schools:

Students in grades 4-12 will be supplied with a new Google Apps for Education (GAFE) account. Parents/Guardians must fill out a permission/request form located at www.bsin.k12.nm.us/technology for their child to be granted access to their account.

This account is similar to the GAFE account you have been given and trained in.

As you know, all of these tools are housed on the Internet and can be accessed from any Internet-connected computer or device with a web browser. No special software is required.

The district's primary reasons for supplying these tools to students are:

- To give our students practice in using current technology applications and tools, including email, word processing, spreadsheet use and slideshow creation
- To give students planning and time management tools (and skills)
- To facilitate "paperless" communication and transfer of work between students and teachers
- To provide unlimited storage space for student work

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 needs to be maintained.

Students will have access to their GAFE account as long as they are enrolled in the Bloomfield School District, grades 4th-12th.

To ensure the safety of our students, GAFE student domains are "closed." This means that students can only email and share documents with their teachers and other students within the district. All applications and data will have both web filtering and spam filtering technologies enabled.

Using these new online tools requires student responsibly as an important part of the learning experience. We will still be following our District Technology Usage Guidelines and User Agreement, signed by all Parents/Guardians at the beginning of the school year.

We hope that you will take advantage of students' having access to GAFE by using the program for collaborative work and encouraging parents and students to communicate with you electronically.

Please ask your parents and students about this new resource, and please visit us at www.bsin.k12.nm.us/technology if you have questions about GAFE.

Sincerely,

Technology @ Bloomfield Schools