



**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73** (Kamloops-Thompson)

1383 - 9th Avenue, Kamloops, BC V2C 3X7 | Tel: 250-374-0679 | Fax: 250-372-1183 | [www.sd73.bc.ca](http://www.sd73.bc.ca)

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Re: Access to student Google Apps for Education accounts

To: Parents/Guardians,

It is an exciting time for teaching and learning in our School District as we pursue our goal of fostering educated and resilient citizens empowered to contribute to a diverse, inclusive, caring, and sustainable society. As we pursue our educational goals, we recognize the importance of creating 21st Century learning environments that provide tools for students that are relevant to their daily lives. To that end, we are committed to providing all students access to digital technologies that will empower their learning and better prepare students to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

As a result, Kamloops-Thompson School District 73 has been working with Google Apps for Education (GAFE) to create a digital collaboration system. GAFE is designed specifically for universities and K-12 school districts and provides access to their files, in a collaborative way, anytime and anywhere, in a secure, private and ad-free environment, with more control and protection than an individual Google/Gmail Account. GAFE is currently used by hundreds of school districts and post-secondary institutions, with tens of millions of student accounts around the world.

As a BC school district, we are subject to the *BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. In order for students to use GAFE, we will need to provide Google with their names, schools and grade levels, as well as documents or information created within, or uploaded onto, the SD73 GAFE platform (see consent form for more details). In accordance with the Act, attached to this letter you will find a consent form that will permit us to disclose such information in order to give students access to this system. This letter of consent is to ask permission for your child to be granted an SD73 Google Apps for Education account for educational purposes. You may withdraw your consent in writing at any time. If you choose not to provide your consent, your child will not be penalized in any way and alternate activities will be provided as appropriate.

Once consent is obtained, your student's classroom teacher will provide further instructions on how to access the GAFE system. If you have further questions, please visit [Google for Education](#) overview site, or do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Sincerely,

School Principal

## Access to Internet-Based Resources (Web Access and Cloud Storage)

To access a School District Google Apps for Education (GAFE) account this form must be completed and returned to the school.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Google Apps for Education (GAFE) is an Internet-based resource that utilizes web access and cloud storage. The Kamloops-Thompson School District can provide students with a district-managed Google Apps for Education account. This allows students to use a powerful collection of online collaboration and productivity tools, as well as unlimited online file storage space to be used for educational purposes.

Detailed information on the SD73 GAFE platform, including a list of educational uses, privacy, and acceptable and unacceptable use can be accessed at [Google for Education](#). Each student will have their own secure login and password to access their account and receive instruction on how to appropriately use the GAFE platform in ways that protect their personal information.

To use a SD73 GAFE account, personal information will be collected by the School District under the authority of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA). The School District is required to obtain the consent of students and their custodial parents before providing this personal information, as required by the British Columbia *School Act* and *FIPPA 27 (d) (i) (ii)*. In accordance with these *Acts*, students and custodial parents may provide consent or decline to consent (in which case the student will not be able to use GAFE), and may provide a further written response.

Using the SD73 GAFE platform involves the storing and accessing of two types of personal information:

1. Students' name, grade level, and school name - used in order to create the GAFE account;
2. Any documents or information created within or uploaded onto the SD73 GAFE platform by students. This includes, but is not limited to, projects, presentations, documents, videos, calendar entries and browser settings created by your child and/or other SD73 students (e.g., students contributing information on a shared document as they work together on a group project). Any documents or information created within or uploaded onto the SD73 GAFE platform by students

may contain personal information reasonable for educational purposes (e.g. a student's name included in a writing assignment).

It is important to be aware that both types of personal information will be stored on secure Google servers located outside of Canada, and in certain circumstances, may be accessed by District IT staff or Google. While stored outside the country, information in your child's GAFE account may be subject to the laws of foreign jurisdictions. Privacy legislation requires that we inform you of this and obtain your consent to this arrangement.

The use of the Google Apps for Education service is not an educational requirement for students. Should you choose not to provide your consent, your child will not be penalized in any way and alternate activities will be provided, as appropriate.

**Consent:**

I understand that my (if student is signing) information or my child's (if parent is signing) information will be used for Google Apps for Education. This includes information collected by School District #73 for the purposes of creation/use of individual GAFE accounts. SD73 may also collect personal information about students that is potentially shared by other students related to the use of GAFE (ie: group projects, videos, shared calendar events, etc.).

For questions regarding the collection of personal information for use in SD73 GAFE accounts, please contact John Wiedrick, Associate Superintendent Human Resources/District Privacy Officer, 1383 9th Ave, Kamloops, BC, 250-374-0679.

I hereby acknowledge that my child and I have read and understood the School District's Policy on the Use of Google Apps for Education.

This consent will be considered valid from the date at which it is signed until 12 months after the point the student named below is no longer a student within the School District, unless at any subsequent time the consent is revoked with written notice delivered to the School District.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_