

EGRPS Parent Tech Update

From the Office of Technology & Assessment
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Welcome to the First Edition!

Dear East Grand Rapids Public Schools Families:

Welcome to the first edition of the EGRPS Parent Technology Update! We hope this newsletter can help families learn more about how we are using technology in the East Grand Rapids Public Schools. We also hope to provide a lens into our classrooms and give you examples how teachers are leveraging our Engage 1:1 Program to support student learning.

Another goal will be to provide support for students and families using our school provided tools and accounts. An example of this is the below video on the difference between the Google browser login and the Google account login. If you have a shared computer at home you may have run into this in the past. In future editions this section could include how best to use Skyward to keep track of student information, or how to help your son or daughter use the Google tools available to our students.

Thank you for reading, and have a great school year!

Doug Jenkins

Director of Technology and Assessment

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Student Google and Gmail:

East Grand Rapids students in grades 3-12 all have access to school provided Google accounts that allow them to log into district devices and access Google Drive. While Gmail will be an option for teachers and students at grades 3-5, it will be setup by default for all students in grades 6-12. If Gmail is used by a teacher at the elementary level, parents will be informed prior to student use. Students with access can go to Gmail.com and use their student user name made up of the first four digits of last name and first three digits of their first name. As an example, a student named Jane Smith could log into Gmail with smitjan@egrps.org as her user and her school password as her password. Having student access to Gmail can assist teachers and allow them to alert students regarding the availability of shared documents. It can also be used for class reminders, or as an email address often needed for logging into other teacher-prescribed sites. Student email will also allow the middle school and high school office staff a way to communicate with all students, such as being able to provide an update on an upcoming event. As a safety measure, all @egrps.org email messages are stored in our Google system for seven years and are not able to be deleted by students or staff.

Online Assistance For Parents:

District Website: egrps.org

Visit individual schools by choosing 'Our Schools' in the top left corner of our home page

Submitting an Absence Request:

Click [here](#) for instructions for how to submit an absence request online for your student

Skyward Family Access: egrps.org/skyward

Parents can securely access all of their student's information from our Skyward Family Access portal

Alert Notification Preferences:

Click [here](#) and learn how to customize your alert notifications for text, email and telephone calls

Logged into the Chrome Browser or into Google?

A frequent question from parents has been "How do I know who is logged into the Chrome browser, then also how do I know who is logged into the Google account?" At issue is, that someone will see their name at the top of the browser and believe that means they are logged into their account. Then when they try to go to Gmail or Drive, they see another family member's messages or files. This happens most often on shared family computers, but can also happen to users on a personal device if they have different Google accounts. Watch [this brief three minute video](#) to learn to easily distinguish between these two types of logins. Other Questions, [ask here!](#)

Learn about Engage 1:1 at egrps.org/engage

- Visit our Engage website [here](#) for an overview of our one-to-one program including our beliefs about the program and teacher vignettes too
- Our Engage Parent Page [here](#) has information about how families can participate in the Engage program, and tips and tricks for using Skyward!
- Students in grades 6-12 can access information on how to get their device onto our network, learn about online safety, and find other helpful links on our [Engage Student page](#)