



*Every child achieves academic excellence.  
Every child becomes emotionally and physically  
stronger. Every child discovers and grows their talents.*

## Google Apps for Education Notification

In Menlo Park City School District, we believe in the power of technology to facilitate communication, collaboration, and creativity. To that end, all 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders will have an iPad to use as a learning device. The introduction of such a device can be disruptive and raise concerns among parents, and we wish to assure you that we keep our students safe online, we educate you on how to parent with this device, and we comply with federal regulations.

More so than any other generation, for our students, as “millennials,” the use of technology is a core trait that defines who they are and how they interact with their world. From the time they have been literate, iPhones and touch-screen technology have been a part of their lives. As technology has evolved, and as mobile learning devices and cloud computing have become realities, schools now have the opportunity to leverage these services and devices to support student learning. Menlo Park City School District, in the heart of Silicon Valley, is that place where we imagine what education will look like in ten years, and we start to build it now.

As part of our suite of digital learning resources, Menlo Park City School District provides to all Hillview students a Google Apps for Education Account<sup>1</sup>, which includes, among other features, a district-moderated Gmail account and a Google Drive account. These tools, available wherever students can access the internet, at school or at home, enable students to communicate with teachers and each other; gain easy access to their documents, presentations, spreadsheets, and drawings; store other non-Google App files; submit assignments and assessments; and share their work and enable feedback between both fellow scholars and instructors alike. Parents can access their child’s Google account by signing in with the district-issued username and password, and therefore the contents of the Gmail account and the Google Drive can be easily inspected.

Google requires Google Apps for Education schools to get parental consent to use its services (which we ask for in our Acceptable Use Policy), and these services can be used in compliance with the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)<sup>2</sup>. In addition, Google has signed the Student Privacy Pledge<sup>3</sup>, which commits to protecting users of Google Apps for Education. For more information on Google Apps for Education and COPPA, please see the footnotes below.

We also want to let you know that in addition to the minimum compliance stated above, we are excited to announce two valuable parent resources that you can tap into this coming year. First, 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be working hard to earn the right to take their iPads home through the Digital Driver’s License program, in which each unit will have a parent component. Second, we will be holding parent information nights to go deeper into our rationale and explore our technology tools more thoroughly, giving you the chance to ask questions and increase your understanding.

Building a 1:1 iPad program simultaneously thrills us and gives us pause, but we are committed to providing a safe, engaging, and learning-rich digital environment for our students and families.

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<sup>1</sup> please see <http://www.google.com/edu/privacy.html>

<sup>2</sup> refer to COPPA FAQ’s here:

<https://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/guidance/complying-coppa-frequently-asked-questions#Privacy%20Policies%20and>

<sup>3</sup> please see <http://studentprivacypledge.org/>