

Google Apps For Education: Frequently Asked Questions

Teachers and students at Great Valley Writing Camp often utilize online resources provided by Google Apps for Education.

Why use Google Apps for Education?

- To provide students with access to current technology applications and free tools designed for collaboration with other students and teachers;
- To give students the ability to work on their documents both in school and at home - anytime and anywhere from any Internet connected device;
- To help students work collaboratively, engage in peer-editing of documents, and facilitate publishing in our Great Valley Writing Camps;
- To facilitate “paperless” transfer of work between students and teachers;
- To provide adequate storage space for student work (seven gigabytes);
- To save time and money in terms of software licensing and document storage.

How is Google connected to local school districts & San Joaquin County Office of Education?

The Google agreement with local school districts and SJCOE provides access to Google applications and storage. While Google hosts these services off-site, the school site maintains the ability to manage users, groups, and settings, much like other locally-hosted systems. This means that teachers can grant and remove user access, and control other settings to ensure a safe and secure collaboration environment for students and teachers.

What personal student information will be stored in Google Apps for Education?

The terms of the Google contract with school districts mandate that we must ask for parental permission to use of Google Apps for Education. On the attached permission form, it states that “information about my child will be collected and stored electronically.” This is true, but Google does not request any personal information from students, and the GVWP staff will not provide any personal student data (ex. birthdate, address, phone number, school site, medical info, special concerns) to Google.

All of the personal information that is submitted during registration resides in GVWP’s account at Eventbrite, and that information is not stored by, nor available to Google.

The Google Apps permission form also states: “student’s education records stored in Google Apps for Education may be accessible to someone other than my student and the Great Valley Writing Camps.” This is true; student files in Google Apps will be accessible to teachers and peers. (Examples of student education records that might be stored in Google Apps include assignments, notes, calendars, and writing projects created by the student.)

How will students log in to Google Apps for Education? Will parents have access?

Students will log in using a teacher-supplied email address. Parents who have students enrolled in classrooms using Google Apps will receive an email explaining the log-in procedures, so if they would like to check the content of the Google account, they will be able to do so.

The student accounts are not permanent. They are generally terminated by the GVWP leaders as soon as final draft projects are posted on our website. (Parents also have access to terminate the account, but they should be aware that doing so may destroy the only record of their child’s work.)