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We, with the involvement of our culturally rich community, will provide a creative, enriching and safe environment, which instills a desire to become a life-long learner and a responsible citizen.

June 8, 2016

Dear Parents and Friends of Gervais School District,

Along with our whole GSD educational team, Superintendent Matt Henry and I are excited to announce our new district-wide Google Apps for Education (GAPE) Initiative. Over the past two school years, Gervais School District has been able to acquire over 200 Chromebooks* and to upgrade our network infrastructure, bandwidth, and wireless coverage so that we are ready to implement this exciting cloud-based suite of Google productivity applications.

Even more exciting, the school board and budget committee recently set aside \$60,000 from the 2016-17 budget to go toward the purchase of even more Chromebooks for our classrooms which will be deployed over the summer! Additionally, when our staff returns to work after the summer break, they will receive in-depth training on Google Drive (including Google Docs), Google Forms, Google Calendar, Google Classroom, and Google Chrome. The customized, high-intensity workshop will provide our teachers with the tools and knowledge to integrate the apps into their classroom instruction, assignments, and projects.

Aside from being offered free (and with no advertisements) to schools, the benefits of GAPE are that users are able to create, share, and edit files in real-time, everyone is on the same page, and that page is stored automatically in the cloud. The cloud-stored documents can be accessed on any Internet-capable device so our students and staff can enjoy a consistent experience from any computer, tablet, or phone. Work can be done anywhere and anytime with an Internet connection!

This new initiative synchronizes well with our district's [Strategic Plan](#), specifically in the areas of Instruction and Learning, Student Opportunities, and Supporting Instruction and Learning through Exceptional Classroom Technology.

We are very excited to be able to embark on this path with your support. The video and website links below provide some overview information of what the Google suite is and how it works in

classrooms. The post-secondary school info links provide answers to questions you may have about how relevant Google will be for students after they move on to a college or university and/or enter the workforce.

Video and website links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-apCibV9YKA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXFUI0KclkA>

<https://www.google.com/edu/products/productivity-tools/>

<https://www.google.com/edu/products/productivity-tools/classroom/index.html>

Post-secondary school info:

<http://www.appusergroup.org/news/is-it-responsible-to-teach-google-docs>

<https://googleblog.blogspot.com/2012/09/a-new-way-of-doing-things-on-campus.html>

<https://www.google.com/work/>

<https://www.google.com/work/apps/government/customers.html>

If you're reading this letter on a paper copy, please see the electronic copy posted on our website at www.gervais.k12.or.us, where you will be able to easily click on the links to the resources above.

Please contact us if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas about our GAFE Initiative. We welcome your input! We think students, parents, and teachers will all enjoy the higher level of collaboration, communication, and interaction that GAFE promises to promote.

Sincerely,



Tracy Lewis, Director of Technology



Matt Henry, Superintendent

*A **Chromebook** is a laptop running Chrome OS as its operating system. The devices are designed to be used primarily while connected to the Internet, with most applications and data residing in "the cloud". A Chromebook is an example of a thin client.

Gervais School District is an equal opportunity educator and employer. El Distrito Escolar de Gervais es una empresa educadora de oportunidad igual.