



About Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools:

The mission of Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools is to provide every student with the foundation of knowledge, skills and character necessary to excel in higher education, work and life. The district embraces and values a diverse student population and community. These different perspectives and backgrounds form the cornerstone of our strong public education system of more than 87,000 students and 6,000 teachers in the district's 153 schools.

Request your Gaggle demo today.

 800-288-7750

 sales@gaggle.net

 gaggle.net/demo

METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Protecting Students and Creating Teachable Moments

CHALLENGE:

With a district-wide initiative to implement Microsoft Office 365, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) needed a way to assure that students were safe using tools such as email, Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

SOLUTION:

MNPS turned to Gaggle and its Safety Management for Office 365 to receive the same content analysis and expert review capabilities found in Gaggle and apply them to Office 365 accounts.

RESULTS:

Gaggle Safety Management for Office 365 was up and running in a matter of days, allowing every student to receive his or her own email address while assuring the district was meeting important compliance provisions and fulfilling safety expectations of administrators and parents.

Protecting Students and Creating Teachable Moments

From the very start, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools' decision to choose Office 365 was contingent on also using Gaggle, making student access to email and files in OneDrive fully compliant with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

Email messages, as well as content created and shared in OneDrive, are now integrated with Gaggle Safety Management, which helps detect potential issues early, alerting district officials if a threat is imminent and allowing educators and parents to intervene positively.

"I was always in favor of students in pre-K through 12th grade having email addresses," recalls Dr. Kecia Ray, the district's Executive Director of Learning Technology & Library Services, "but not every parent is going to be responsible, so somebody has to kind of play the parent. With us, that's Gaggle. Gaggle truly has our back."

On the technology side, Dr. Ray's colleague, John Williams, Executive Director of Technology &

Information Services, also believed that to give students access to email and other tools there needed to be a proven level of safety and security.

"What really made Gaggle stand out for me was how painless the integration was," he said. Everything was done in a matter of days and it didn't change how our students log in or how we maintain their accounts."

Both Dr. Ray and Mr. Williams believe that many students' first email address is from the district. Combined with Microsoft's Active Directory Federation Services (AD FS), which provides single-sign-on access to other websites, Gaggle is providing even more benefits.

"While we quickly realized the value [of Gaggle Safety Management] with student email, because our students use their district email to access social networks, we're able to include the email notifications that contain their posts on sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram," said Dr. Ray. "It's really great because, for the most part, they don't know about Gaggle and we're able to protect them at the same time."

Dr. Ray considers any possible student situations or questionable content identified by Gaggle as a "teachable moment." Rather than disciplining

students or taking privileges away, the district involves school counselors to work with them on practicing good digital citizenship.

One example Dr. Ray shared involved a girl who took the bus to school, but rather than going to class spent several days at her dad's house who was out of town. At the same time the school sent out a search party, Gaggle brought to the district's attention an email and Facebook posts from the student that mentioned she was considering taking her own life. The district was able to engage social workers and the right people to get the girl help.

"Without Gaggle, we would have never known about the troubles this girl was having," said Dr. Ray. "The incident might have just been considered an extreme absence, but we wouldn't have ever known how she was really feeling."

Another benefit of the integration, according to Mr. Williams, was that he didn't need to dedicate any additional resources to the project. "You don't often get vendors that know what they're doing and make it happen like Gaggle does," he said. "It was a pleasant experience from the beginning, and I continue to be impressed with how much interest Gaggle takes in our district and in our students."