



MERIDIAN COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Proactive Prevention for Student Safety

Meridian Community Unit School District, located in Mounds, Illinois, was looking for a more effective way to monitor students' online activity. Their previous student safety provider lacked the ability to send timely alerts on concerning online behavior and content. In 2022, they partnered with Gaggle to better address these issues and improve the overall state of student safety.

## SEEKING A SUPPORTIVE SOLUTION

With students' mental health needs on the rise, Meridian was looking to build a safer and more supportive environment for its students.

Jonathan Green, Superintendent of Meridian Community Unit School District, and Maryanne Boren, Middle and High School Principal, recognized the need for improved student safety measures. While they had existing products in place to monitor student devices, these tools fell short in identifying critical safety concerns.

In 2022, Meridian partnered with Gaggle to improve the overall quality of student well-being and ensure they received timely notifications on any concerning online activity. Gaggle's ability to provide live, human support to assess the flagged content was also very important to Meridian.

## PROACTIVE PREVENTION

Meridian's partnership with Gaggle has significantly improved the safety and well-being of their students through:

**Real-Time Alerts:** Gaggle's ability to provide real-time alerts allows Meridian to intervene swiftly in critical situations. For instance, they received an alert during a weekend when a student was discussing self-harm. Thanks to the prompt notification, they were able to prevent a potentially tragic incident.

"I think one thing that makes Gaggle unique is the ability to monitor activity in real-time, and that you have real people interpreting the context of flagged content. That has saved lives. One weekend, I received an alert on my phone about an incident that

was concerning and was able to quickly get in contact with the parent of a student that was talking about self-harm. Right away, the mother of the student was able to go into her daughter's room and stop something that was potentially going to happen."

**MARYANNE BOREN**  
**MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**  
**MERIDIAN COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Proactive Prevention:** Gaggle has helped Meridian proactively address issues related to depression, self-harm, and inappropriate content sharing. By identifying these concerns early, they're able to initiate conversations with students and provide proactive support.

**Improved Student-Teacher Relationships:** The use of Gaggle has not only enhanced student safety but has also fostered better relationships between students and staff. Though alerts may have been the starting point for conversations, it's built a stronger practice of communication.

**Enhanced Staff Well-Being:** Recognizing the stress

"Gaggle has helped us stay proactive in catching something before it becomes bigger. Because, the thing is, if you care about the well-being of your kids – their safety and their mental health – that's the number one priority. And if you're not proactive about that, the academics aren't going to happen."

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and pressure on staff, Meridian extended the use of Gaggle Therapy & Coaching to staff members as well to better support their mental health needs. Through ongoing teletherapy sessions, staff and teachers are able to get the support they need and in turn, support their students.

## **STUDENT SAFETY IS A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT**

Meridian Community Unit School District's partnership with Gaggle has brought significant improvements in student safety, mental health support, and proactive prevention of potential crises. By combining real-time alerts with human context analysis, Meridian is able to address issues promptly, fostering a safer and more supportive environment for students and staff. Their experience serves as a valuable example for other districts seeking to enhance their student safety and well-being.



Gaggle's mission is to provide a human-centric approach to student well-being in K-12 districts. Let us help you create a safe and supportive environment for your students.

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