

March 22, 2013

Ave Maria!

SFX Parents,

Google Education Apps is a program where Google has given schools the ability to have a secured account. This account is unique to each school. All the students and staff at SFX will receive a 25GB on-line storage account. Google also allows the school to control all the settings. SFX now has Google Drive active on the students in grades 6 thru 8. The students will have the use of Google Docs [similar to Microsoft Word], Spreadsheet [similar to Excel], Presenter [similar to PowerPoint], Draw [similar to Microsoft Paint], and Forms [a quick way to create templates for various document].

The students will NOT have Gmail, Talk, any social network, chat, or YouTube. The school has been set up with firewalls, UTM's [Unified Thread Management: a "geek way" of saying we have a really good internet filter system] so we can have YouTube here at the school but the account will not have it at home. If you allow your child to have a personal Gmail account at home, they will be given the option to merge the two accounts. If the two accounts are merged then they will have the same access to YouTube and Gmail that you as parents have allowed. The merge itself simply allows for the students to see the two accounts in the same window. The accounts remain separate. If you have not set her/ him up with a Gmail account then he/she will not have any features other than what the school has assigned. The SFX account is set up so students can only share docs within the SFX School. Basically the sharing of documents takes place with teachers and with each other in group projects.

The drive accounts allow the students to work on a project at school. The online server stores the documents automatically. The student can work at home and send the teacher the report. The teacher receives the materials immediately, all without using flash drives, or paper. Teachers can correct the work just as on a paper report. Once marked by the teacher, the student cannot change the document. The other great advantage to the drive is that you can work securely on a document on any computer that has Google chrome installed. It doesn't matter if the device is a PC, Droid, Apple, or Chrome. Google can be used.

If you have any questions please call or send me an email.

Peace and All Goodness,

Michael Manzi