



ROBERT FROST MIDDLE SCHOOL

**FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

4101 Pickett Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22032

Dear Frost Middle School Parent,

This year your child has the opportunity to use Google Apps in Education (“Schoogle”). This powerful online tool gives your child access to Google Docs, Google Calendar, and Google Mail (fcpschools.net) both at school and at home (provided you have internet access at home); all within a secured FCPS environment. There are several reasons why we are so excited about this.

1. Students will now have easy access to their documents, spreadsheets, and presentations within Google Docs. In addition, students will have additional storage for other files they may need to use between home and school.
2. Teachers will be able to use Google Docs to facilitate group projects and use the history tool to see just how much each student in the group is participating. Teachers will also be able to give feedback to students directly in their documents once it is shared with the teacher.
3. Students will be able to collaborate easily on documents and presentations, both in and out of school, without having to meet face-to-face.
4. You will be able to have your child login to their Google account at home and show you the things they are currently working on in class, as well as items that have been “turned in” and commented on by the teacher.
5. “Turning In” assignments is as easy as sharing the file in Google Docs with the teacher, or by emailing it to the teacher through the student’s fcpschools.net account.
6. Students will now have access to their own calendar on the web that includes the ability to create task lists. This can be an invaluable tool to help get your student organized. Teachers will also have the ability to create class calendars that can be shared with their students to help remind them of upcoming due dates.
7. And most importantly, using these tools will give students essential computer and collaboration skills that will benefit them the rest of their school career and into the working world.

As I mentioned, Google Mail (fcpschools.net) is one of the applications offered as part of this tool. Please know that the email account that students will be given will work only within our secured environment (walled garden). In other words, students will only be able to use that email address to email other students within FCPS, or to email their teachers. It will not allow them to email outside of our “walled garden.” Please also be aware that you will not be able to email your child at that address, nor will they be able to email you.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Laura Wong, our School Based Technology Specialist, at laura.wong@fcps.edu or 703-426-5700.

Marti Jo Jackson
Principal