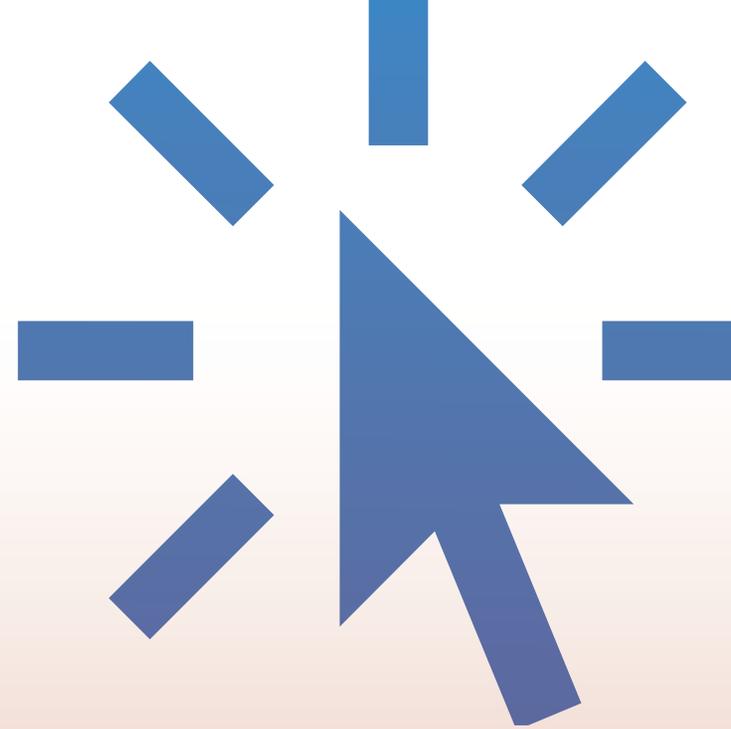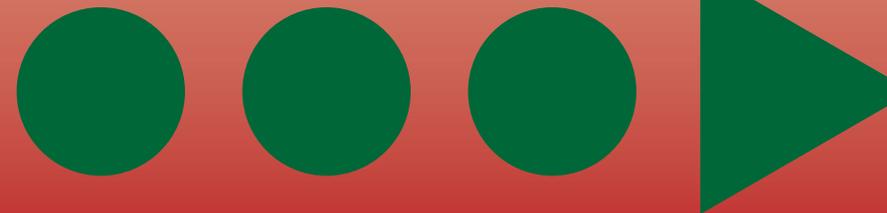# Connect
## with your schools.

*www.glnd.k12.va.us*

*With this guide, learn more about connecting with Goochland County Public Schools with social media. Whether it's our accessible website, or the newest education network Edmodo, or popular services like Facebook or Twitter, we've got you connected with ways to stay current with what's happening in and around all of our schools.*

January, 2013

## Communicating with Technology

Technology already has an important place in our classrooms. But today, it's being used to fuel an unprecedented amount of communication using tools that go beyond laptops and telephones. The rise of social media and mobile devices have raised the bar with our expectation to remain connected with our families, our work, and our schools.

**Goochland County Public Schools recognize the importance of communication with our families.** We use a variety of tools to maintain connected with our community, on a variety of fronts.

We maintain our **website** as our main portal for everything newsworthy across our division. **Major news stories** appear on our front page, but dive deeper to find school news on **each school's website**, including new pages designed specifically to help students find what's important. A new **budget page** will keep the community current on our budget development process each school year, and our **school board portal** connects you with meeting minutes, upcoming agendas, and of course our live video streaming of monthly meetings.

Our **blogs** are our teacher's platform for reporting what is going on in each classroom. Find links to teacher blogs, email addresses, and Twitter feeds through the teacher page on your child's school webpage.

We use **School Messenger** to get out the important stuff: from school cancelations due to weather, to breaking news, we use this service to reach each family by phone.

**Edmodo** is a social platform for learning. Teachers are beginning to embrace this platform for sharing media with students, in addition to fostering classroom discussions and providing a means through which students can turn-in work electronically. If your child's teacher is using Edmodo, ask about the parent access options.

Division-wide news is also posted on our **Facebook** page and **Twitter** feed. You'll find links to these on our website. While you can reply to us using these media, we recommend using e-mail to contact us directly with questions and concerns. You'll find all central office staff are listed on our contacts page.

We also know parents and secondary students value the access they have to current grades and attendance records through PowerSchool. Contact your school's office if you need help with a PowerSchool login, or have a question about PowerSchool.

Finally, we know that understanding the safety and concerns with the tools we use both in and outside of school can be daunting. Check out our **internet safety page** with tips for using social networks.

## Connecting with Blogs

Our teachers and administrators are generating hundreds of pages and gigabytes of media each year about the great things that are happening in our classrooms. The majority of this valuable content is being shared through our blogs. Since 2005, we've been leading the way with teacher and principal blogging. What you may not know, is how to get this content delivered to you via a free *subscription*.
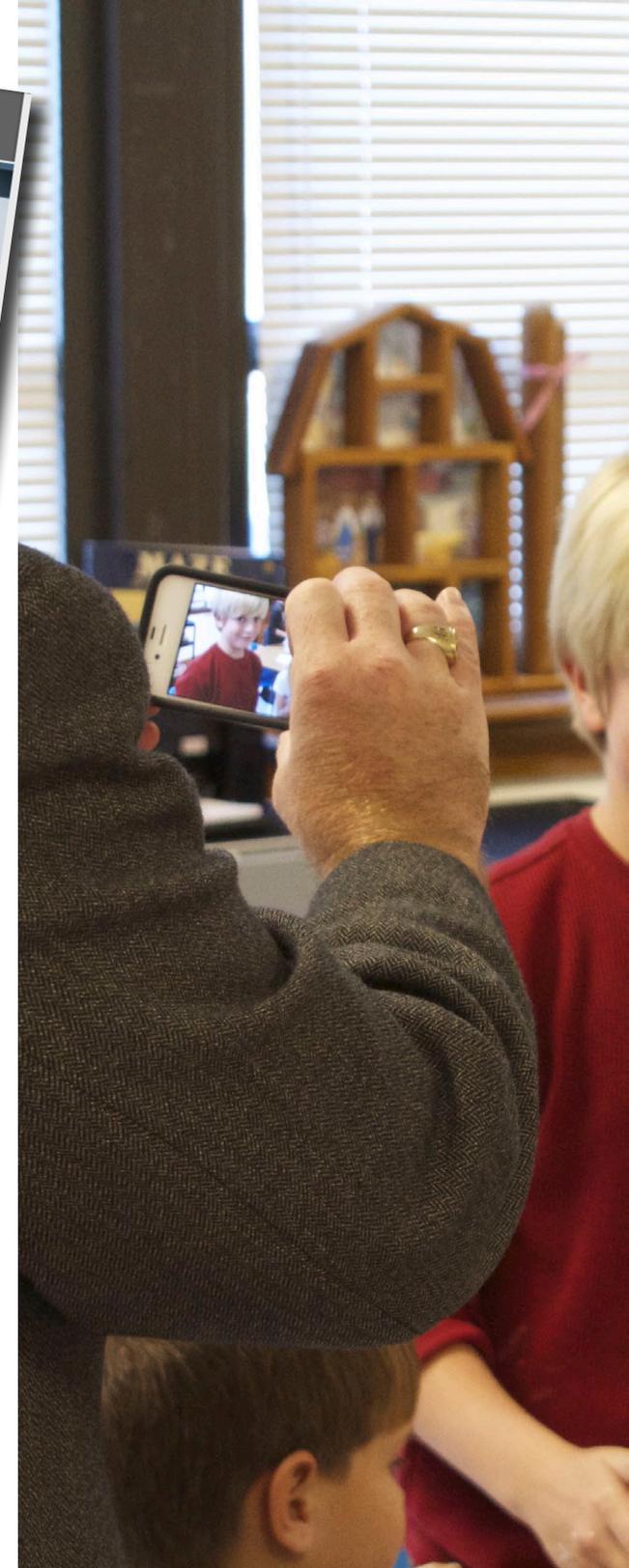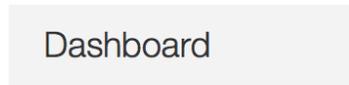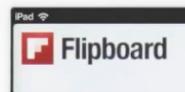
The *RSS newsfeeds* behind each blog can make accessing this content both easy and fun. If you have a mobile device, you can use the feeds from the blogs to browse our blog content using a free app called **Flipboard**. This app transforms our blogs into a magazine-like experience. You can add your *Facebook* and *Twitter* accounts to access our news there, too.

Some parents prefer to get blog posts **delivered by email**. You can do that, and a whole lot more, using the free online service call *If this, then that...* (IFTTT). We've made a short tutorial video on YouTube on using this service.

You can also follow our tutorial on using **Google Reader** to gain access to our teacher blogs, along with millions of other feeds. You'll find these tutorials and more on our **YouTube page**. Just follow the *YouTube* link on our homepage.

The most important thing to remember about RSS and our blogs is that each blog has an RSS feed, and it's accessible by simply adding */feed* at the end of any blog URL.

As with all of these social tools, there are opportunities for your interaction. Please be reminded that we reserve the right to remove comments/discussion that violate our computer acceptable use policy (IBEA).

**1** Our school board is committed to community input. Connect with us via *UStream* during our live meetings or catch a recording the next day.

⊕ *www.glnd.k12.va.us/index/schoolboard*

**2** Our teacher & administrator blogs are the best way to know what's happening in and outside the classrooms! Use a feed reader or feed-to-email solution to get updates e-mailed to you automatically. Visit our news page from our leadership.

⊕ *blogs.glnd.k12.va.us*
⊕ *www.glnd.k12.va.us/index/news/leadership*

**3** Get breaking news and highlights through our social channels on *Twitter* & *Facebook*.
@glndschools on Twitter

⊕ *www.facebook.com/GoochlandCountySchools*

**4** Edmodo is a social networking system for students. But parents can use it too! Get access to parent codes from your child's teacher if they're using the Edmodo platform.

⊕ *goochland.edmodo.com*

**5** Keep track of Goochland Athletic events, scores, and updates via our Athletics department page.

⊕ *www.goochlandsports.org*