Dear Parents,

We wanted to notify you that we use Google Apps for Education at Mirowitz. This system, powered by Google, will provide Gmail to our school (**Middle school** and Staff only), as well as a suite of other Google products such as Google Docs, Google Calendar, Google Classroom (5th and Middle School) and more. This will enable our students and staff to better communicate, share, and collaborate. We joined over 76 million other students and teachers that are already using Google Apps at schools around the world.

We are excited to offer Google Apps, as it represents an important step towards developing a 21st century approach to curriculum and learning. These tools will support the high levels of collaboration that are required in today's classroom to prepare students with the communication and collaboration skills they're going to need.

What's included in Google Apps?
- Gmail (**for grades 6-8**) - an individual email account for school use. This is one way teachers will communicate with students.
- Google Calendar- allows your student to keep track of his/her school work.
- Google Docs- allows you to create and share documents, spreadsheets, presentations, drawings, and forms. You can also upload any file to Google Docs and share it with others.
- Google Classroom (for grades 5-8)- allows teachers to assign homework and students to turn in homework. Students will be able to communicate with their teacher and classmates through this interface. Parents will get weekly updates.

What are the benefits of Google Apps and what's included?
- Anytime, anywhere access - Google Apps works in any browser on any computer, which means students can access their email, calendars, and documents from school or at home.
- No flash drives required with documents and files stored in Google Docs.
- Students can easily collaborate with students from their class or other classes.
- Teachers can be involved throughout the whole assignment process providing comments and feedback directly in the documents.
- Students can develop an e-portfolio of work throughout their years at the school.

We are excited to be using Google Apps for Education. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions!

Thanks,
Andrea Newstead
Director of Technology