East Grand Rapids Public Schools

EGRPS Parent Tech Update

Phishing Attacks – Protect your students and yourself!

With two well publicized attacks in May, this has been a big month for phishing and ransomware. Phishing attacks 'fish' for user information through some sort of scam and ransomware locks user's files suggesting that if they pay a ransom the files will be unlocked. The May 3 Google Phishing scam appeared to be an innocent Google Document share, but when users logged in it sent a quickly spreading message to everyone in the user's contact list. Google shut this down within an hour, but not before 1M individuals were affected. While Google was the target of the first, Microsoft was targeted in the second attack. Specifically users who had not been running regular updates. While waiting for Microsoft updates can be time consuming, please make it a priority to run these as they are vitally important to the security of your device and the networks you join. Do you believe you can spot a fake? Take this ten question email quiz or this fourteen question website quiz to see if you can correctly identify phishing messages and sites. No harm in getting these wrong – you'll learn from trying!
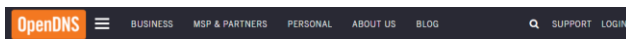
Online Tools Available To Families:

Submitting an Absence Request:
Click here for instructions for how to submit an absence request online for your student

Skyward Family Access:
egrps.org/skyward
Parents can securely access all of their student's information from our Skyward Family Access portal

Alert Notification Preferences:
Click here and learn how to customize your alert notifications for text, email and telephone calls

School Lunch Menus and My Payment Plus:
Visit our Food Service page here for the latest menus and for information on maintaining student lunch accounts

Microsoft Office for Students

All EGRPS students and staff members now have access to download Microsoft Professional Plus as well as use Microsoft Office 365 Online. To access this software, students can log in to https://portal.office.com using their @egrps.org username and password. Under the heading "Install Office 2016 on your PC", you will find an "Install now" button. You can use this button to install Office 2016 on up to five (5) of your personal Windows and Macintosh devices. We recommend unchecking the "Make Bing your search engine" and "Make MSN your browser homepage" before clicking the "Install now" button.
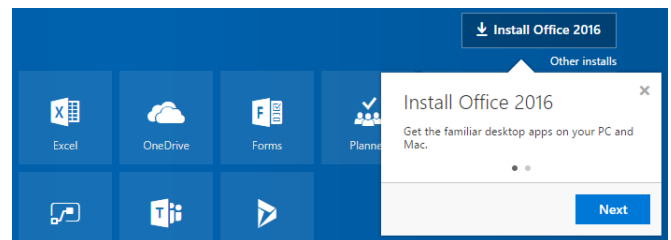
At the same address, our students also have access to Microsoft Office 365 which is the online version of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint accessible via a web browser. This software works very similar to Google Docs. You can store documents in the Microsoft cloud and reach them from any device with access to the Internet. The district will continue to standardize on Google Docs and do not have plans to change to the Microsoft product as our district platform. We view this Microsoft Office Pro and Microsoft Office 365 opportunity as providing additional tools which may be helpful for our families.

Engage 1:1 Survey

As the current school year comes to a close, we are interested in gathering feedback regarding the Engage 1:1 program from multiple perspectives. This is the fifth year of Engage 1:1 and we are appreciative that we will have five years of data from students, staff, and parents as we continue to monitor and adjust the structure of the program. We invite you to take our Parent Survey (link here) and contribute to this important data collection to continue strengthening the program. This Engage 1:1 survey is for parents of middle school and high school students and will be open for input from Friday, May 12 through Wednesday, May 31. In addition, there will be two separate surveys made available for middle school and high school students prior to the end of the school year, as well as staff, to provide feedback. Thank you for taking the survey; we appreciate your feedback.