

## Remote Learning Quick Guide for Families

Schools should use this document to support families during remote learning opportunities.



### **Technical Support**

- If your problem is associated with an assignment or program, communicate with your classroom teacher first.
- If you have a problem with a GCHS laptop, students and families can contact the GCHS tech staff for support (<https://bit.ly/gchstechsupport>). A technician will assist you in troubleshooting the issue ASAP.
- The GCS tech staff cannot assist with the following:
  - Hardware issues with personal devices
  - Printers at home
  - Your home internet service

### Student login information

Most of the below resources will require the student's login information.

- The student's username is their **gadsdencityschools.org** email
- The student's address is the first initial, last name and numbers with **@gadsdencityschools.org** appended to it. (Ex: jsmith0331@gadsdencityschools.org)
- Each student has a unique password. Student passwords are the first three letters of last name and a series of numbers. Passwords begin with a capital letter. (Ex: Smi65123). Check with the teacher if you need help with a student password. Teachers should not share student passwords via email.
- By using the Google Chrome browser on a computer, students can sign into the Chrome browser and Clever portal using their email address and password as detailed above. This will allow them instant access to online educational resources. Clever portal login instructions can be found on the GCS website and school websites.



Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, some internet providers are extending offers for free home internet services:

Comcast (1-800-934-6489):

Xfinity WiFi Free For Everyone via hotspots

Discounting data limits

No disconnect or late fees

News, Information and Educational Content on X1 and Flex

Charter (1-844-488-839):

Free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students, who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription, at any service level up to 100 MBPS. Install fees waived.

Open Wi-Fi hotspots across their footprint for public use

For eligible low-income households without school-aged children, Charter continues to offer Spectrum Internet Assist, a low-cost broadband program delivering speeds of 30 Mbps.

AT&T (1-800-288-2020):

Free access to its public WiFi hot spots

Suspending terminations and late fees for nonpayment

Unlimited data for consumer home internet wireline customers and fixed wireless internet customers

T-Mobile (1 (800) 937-8997):

Unlimited data to all current customers who have plans with data for the next 60 days

Additional data to mobile hotspots

### Free Local Wifi Spots:

- Noccalula Falls Park, the softball complex on West Meighan Boulevard, and the Gadsden Public Library have free Wi-Fi access in their parking lot areas;
- Family Success Center, 821 E. Broad St., Gadsden, network comes up as Dlink;
- Legacy Dental, 108 Fountain Ave., Gadsden; network is Legacy Dental Guest; password is phone number 256-543-9572;
- The Factory, 100 Thomas Drive, Gadsden;
- GadRock, 1403 Rainbow Drive, Gadsden, offers a splash page in order to access guest Wi-Fi;
- Hardin Center, 501 Broad St., Gadsden; Wi-Fi available from rear parking lot; network is hardincenter; password is hardincenter;



### What is Chrome?

- Chrome is a Web Browser made by Google.
- From the Chrome Browser, students can easily access their Gadsden City Schools Google Account.
- The directions below only apply to personal home devices.

### Sign in directions for a Windows/Mac computer:

1. Download and install the Chrome Browser if it isn't already (<https://www.google.com/chrome/>).
2. After you have installed the program, open **Chrome**.
3. In the top right, click the button with your name or people.
4. Click **Sign in to Chrome**.
5. Sign in to your Google Account using your **gadsdencityschools.org** account.
6. The Clever portal should be the homepage for elementary and middle school students the next time Chrome is launched.

### Sign in directions for tablets and phones:

1. Visit your mobile devices's respective app store and search for the Google Chrome app.
2. Sign in to the app using your **gadsdencityschools.org** Google account.
3. It is recommended to install all major Google apps and connect each to your Google account (Chrome, Gmail, Drive, Docs, Slides, Sheets, Classroom, Meet).



### **What is Clever?**

- Clever is an online portal for easy access to commonly used learning applications.
- Students can access a district page as well as customized teacher pages.
- Learning applications may include district resources, links to webpages, and links to teacher created documents.

### **Sign in directions for computer:**

- Perform the procedures detailed in the Google Chrome section above.
- Click **Log in with Google or Clever Badge Log In**. Badges can be obtained for K-2 students from teachers.
- The Clever portal will now load.

### **Sign in directions for Chromebook:**

- Sign into the Chromebook using the student's GCS email account or Clever badge.
- The Clever portal will be the homepage.

### **Sign in directions for tablets:**


- Download the Clever app.
- Click **Log in with Google or Clever Badge Log In**.
- Enter your child's GCS email address and password or use Clever badge.



### **What is Gmail?**

- Your child's Gadsden City Schools monitored email account.
- Gmail will be used for communication. Please check on a daily basis.
- Gmail is available for grades K-12. K-4 will communicate mostly through Google Classroom, Remind, ClassDojo, etc.

### **Sign in directions for Chromebook:**

- Access through Chrome *OR*
- Access through your Drive ("waffle"  ) *OR*
- Go to <https://mail.google.com/>

### **Sign in directions for a home computer:**

- First perform the procedures detailed in the Google Chrome section above.
- Access through Chrome *OR*
- Access through your Drive ("waffle") *OR*
- Go to <https://mail.google.com/>

### **Sign in directions for tablets:**

- Download Gmail app from your tablet's app store
- Sign in using the student's **gadsdencityschools.org** email address.



### **What is Google Classroom?**

- A paperless way for students and teachers to distribute, create, and grade assignments

#### **Sign in directions for a Windows/Mac computer:**

- First perform the procedures detailed in the Google Chrome section above.
- Access through your Drive (“waffle”) OR
- Go to <https://classroom.google.com/>

#### **Sign in directions for tablets and phones:**

- Download the Google Classroom app from your mobile device’s app store OR
- Go to <https://classroom.google.com/> in a browser app

#### **Sign in directions for Chromebook:**

- Access through your Drive (“waffle”) OR
- Go to <https://classroom.google.com/>



### **What is Google Meet?**

- Google Meet is a video conferencing tool that your child’s teacher may choose to use to stream lessons live, record lessons, or schedule a video call to enhance their instruction. Webcams and mics can be “muted” to limit or prevent viewing at your discretion.

#### **Sign in directions:**

- The teacher will share a link via Google Classroom or Gmail that students use to join a Meet.

#### **Sign in directions for tablets and phones:**

- Download the Meet app from your mobile device’s app store
- Sign in using the student’s [gadsdencityschools.org](mailto:gadsdencityschools.org) email address.



### **What is IXL?**

- IXL is a personalized Math and English Language Arts platform.

#### **Sign in directions:**

- Access through Clever after performing the procedures outlined in the Google Chrome and Clever sections above.



### **What is Renaissance Accelerated Reader?**

- Motivate, monitor, and manage students’ independent reading practice and comprehension with Accelerated Reader.

#### **Sign in directions:**

- Access through Clever after performing the procedures outlined in the Google Chrome and Clever sections above.



### **What is myON?**

- Unlimited access to over 5,000 digital books and news articles
- 24/7 access through the Clever portal.