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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Gaggle Announces New Safe Blogging Site for Schools and Students**

BLOOMINGTON, IL – Gaggle.Net, a provider of safe student email to school districts across the country, is releasing its newest feature, Gaggle Blogs. Gaggle Blogs will serve as a safe blogging solution to help protect students from the dangers associated with typical blogging sites.

What makes Gaggle Blogs safer than other blog sites is that the teachers are in control. Teachers can decide if access to the student blogs are restricted to just within the school or district, or opened to the outside world. They can password protect blogs, restrict who can comment on the blogs, hide full names and email addresses, prevent pictures and more. In fact, teachers can decide if all blog entries and comments must be approved before being posted.

In addition to the teacher controls, Gaggle is the first web site to provide powerful tools for filtering blogs. Each blog entry is scanned against a blacklist of inappropriate words and phrases and all graphic files are processed through Gaggle's Anti-Pornography Scanner. Gaggle's APS can block pornographic images while allowing appropriate images. The APS even scans URLs to block web sites that contain pornographic content. If a blog entry is blocked by the Gaggle filters, the entry is flagged until it is approved by an educator.

“As a leader in providing safe email to students, we felt that building a safe student blog system was a natural fit”, says Michael Kessler, Vice President of Gaggle. “While we love to see the advancement of technology, we have to question the safety with some of the emerging technologies. Many of the Blogging websites that students are utilizing, such as MySpace.com and Facebook.com, just don't have any kind of monitoring or safety capabilities in place, which can leave students in a vulnerable position for sexual predators and cyberbullying. We felt that students needed a safer environment where they could express themselves,” he adds.

Students, however, are not the only people who will benefit from Gaggle Blogs. Educators all over the country are finding new and innovative ways to incorporate this emerging technology into their classrooms and daily curriculum. Educators can use blogs as a current event log, an online portfolio of student work (E-portfolio), or as a type of message board. Educators can also have students share their research findings, creative writings, literature reviews, and so much more. The possibilities are endless and with Gaggle Blogs, teachers can integrate the tools their students are already using at home, into the classroom.

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### **About Gaggle.Net**

Founded in 1998, Gaggle.Net is in its seventh year of providing safe, teacher-controlled email to K-12 students across the country and worldwide. Currently, over 13,000 schools are signed up for Gaggle.Net's safe student email system. More than just email and blogs, Gaggle.Net also includes student-focused chat rooms, message boards, digital lockers, and profile pages. All of these features are filtered for inappropriate content and images, and offer full monitoring capabilities to teachers. These tools are located on Gaggle.Net's web-based system so learning and communication can continue anywhere there is an internet connection.

For additional information, please contact Michael Kessler at Gaggle.Net.

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