

# GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

12 Littleville Road Huntington, MA 01050

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Wendy V. Long, Public Relations ☒  
(413) 685-1003

## *Superintendent's Corner*

**August 9, 2018**

I'm excited that we are finally getting some opportunities for staff development around technology in Western Massachusetts and that our own technology staff have been instrumental in this endeavor. We've also been very fortunate in having the ability to host many of these technology sessions at Gateway for schools throughout the region.

The most recent of these was last week's "Googlepalooza" (a professional development day focused on effectively using Google resources) hosted at Gateway. This event had nearly 70 people attend from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island. With 14 educational sessions, a lunch 'smackdown' (the sharing of tips and tricks from conference attendees) and many opportunities for networking, this was a great event and helped expand training for area educators.

Sessions were offered for everyone from the beginner user to the expert and covered everything from an introduction to Google Suite tools to an overview of the new Google Classroom; from tips on utilizing Google sites in the classroom to an introduction to the new Google Earth; from using technology to plan digital 'breakouts' in the classroom to digital differentiation; and from tips on how to use tools to better find specific items on the Internet to using digital formative assessments to guide instruction. These sessions offered much information, a chance to try some new tools, and an opportunity to hear firsthand from other educators on how to better use technology in the classroom. All in all the day went very well and we had several of our own teachers and administrators take advantage of this opportunity to interact with others and to work with Google certified trainers. We are very hopeful that the success of this conference will yield an ongoing relationship with MassCue (Massachusetts Computer Users in Education), which was the sponsoring organization behind this event, so that we can continue to offer these opportunities in Western Massachusetts.

We are also pleased to be able to offer additional technology events over the course of the year including a Focus Group on Technology in October and a "Lunch and Learn" session in November. These events will allow educators to learn, share and review technology items ranging from applications to hardware with various vendors, other educators, and technology coordinators from around the country.

These are all great opportunities in any setting but are certainly wonderful activities to be held in our own little corner of Western Massachusetts. This of course points to the ever more ubiquitous presence of technology in our lives (for good or bad), the need to understand and effectively use technology in the classroom and our lives, the increasing reliance of technology for living, and of course, the need for broadband access that is slowly being implemented in the hilltowns. My thanks to MassCue and Gateway's technology department for making these opportunities available to all of us in education.

###