

PVLearners.net

bridging online communication/collaboration between PVUSD students and teachers

PVLearners.net is an internet domain registered under PVUSD that enables all employees and students to have Google accounts for email, calendars, shared docs/spreadsheets/presentations, gadgets, blogs, wikis, groups, RSS feeds, and web pages. Please note that these accounts are full, internet, resource and tool enabled. Consequently, understanding and practicing appropriate online use is important for all users, and this practice can not be underscored enough. Concepts such as identity theft, scams, spam, cyberpals, ethics, not disclosing personal information, digital stranger danger, advertising, etc., should be taught, discussed and understood by all users. The Technology Department stands ready to help you present information on these or any topic, should you so desire.

PVLearners was created for three reasons: to prepare students for their future, to meet state and national technology standards, and to keep our practice current. We currently have the capability for 40,000 accounts that are maintained by our district. At this time we have over 13,000 student accounts activated for general communication, many entire schools activated, and many teachers (K-12) actively exploring 21st-century, online collaboration and learning (beyond email) with their students.

You can view the start page for PVLearners at <http://start.pvlearners.net>. Additional information is available at the PVLearners blog, <http://pvlearners.blogspot.com>. Finally, training movies are being developed in pTUNES (<http://ptunes.pvschools.net>) and our subscription to Atomic Learning (<http://www.atomiclearning.com> ...username **paradise**, password **valley** (all lowercase)) provides online tutorials on use of Google "docs and sheets".

For information on voluntarily getting your school, teachers and students participating in rich, online communication and collaboration, please contact Jill Felty (jfelty@pvschools.net). Principal approval is required and we are now only accepting entire schools, or a one time activation of entire grade levels - sorry, no more one, two or three teachers. Parental notification/permission is required per Board policy. Please note that not all teachers at a school have to participate with the tools, but at least they can get student homework/communication sent from a known/trusted email address (PVLearners.net), instead of whatever@yahoo.com, cooldude@msn.com, etc.. Teachers can also have the option to setup their PVLearners account to automatically forward email to their ConnectMe account, simplifying email management. Additionally, student usernames/passwords are set with PVUSD's external model, which teachers have access to through "My Roster" in pDAT (<http://pdat.pvschools.net>).

Please note that there is a reasonable probability that next year, pvlearners accounts will be available to all students. It's almost 2008, and moving from analog to digital is upon us all, throughout the world.

Best Practices already being implemented by PVUSD teachers and students include the following:

PVLearners Best Practices

1. Use of PVLearners is for communication and collaboration among students and teachers in PVUSD for school activities and educational goals.
2. Students are expected to be self-motivated and responsible with their PVLearners accounts. This includes following the expectations outlined for student behavior per the PVUSD student handbook.
3. Users of PVLearners need to be aware of the following:
 - Keep your personal information private (including photos, profiles, emails, blogs, wikis, web pages, etc.)
 - Keep personal information of others private
 - Treat others with respect
 - Be aware that published content may be viewable by all users of the Internet
4. Activities conducted with PVLearners accounts should be legal, educational, nondisruptive, and adhere to the PVUSD acceptable use policy for Electronic Information Services.
5. Students' Start Pages are to be created and maintained appropriately per the teacher's guidelines.
6. Parental permission is required before PVLearners accounts can be used by students.
7. PVLearners accounts have been established through Google Services and are subject to the terms and conditions of Google.