

Create Student Accounts Using Gmail *Dummy* Accounts

Often, a Website will require a valid email address to create an account. In order to maximize the safety of the online experience of students, you can create *dummy* Google Gmail accounts for your students. The students will register for Website accounts with their *dummy* account, but all of the mail will go to one Gmail account that you can monitor. This will allow you to have greater supervision of the students' online activities.

1. Test the Website that you want to use with your students to see if it will take *dummy* accounts. Try to log in to the Website, but in the place of your real email address type something like this:
yourname+student@gmail.com.

If you get an error message asking you to put in a real email, stop here. The site doesn't take dummy accounts.

2. Set up a new Gmail account for this purpose. Name it something like *CainClass@gmail.com*. To sign up for Gmail, go to <http://gmail.google.com>, click the "Create an Account" button and fill out the registration form.
3. Assign *dummy* accounts to your students. (You do not have to set these up, they work automagically.) The student accounts will be like the account you set up in step two, except that they will have "+username" before the @ sign. So, for my classes, the dummy accounts would look like this:

CainClass+joes@gmail.com for Joe Smith
CainClass+alicej@gmail.com for Alice Johnson
4. Direct the students to the Website that they will use, and lead them to register with their *dummy* accounts. Be careful about using real last names; check your school Acceptable Use Policy for guidelines.
5. Some sites will require email verification which will mean that your Gmail account will get an email for each student asking you to click to verify the account. After you do this, your students should be ready to go.