



Connect
Coordinate
Communicate

Contribute

GroupGel: Helping Schools Connect, Communicate, and Coordinate

The most successful schools are known to have an active community of parents, students and volunteers, involved in after-school, extracurricular, and athletic activities. Yet school administrators are in the business of teaching; extracurricular activities, sports and special events all take a back seat to their primary mission of educating children. Administrators struggle to find the time and resources necessary to engage parents and students in activities and interests outside the classroom although they realize that it is critically important.

Challenges range from making parents aware of activities where they can contribute, to having enough staff to coordinate volunteer events, to managing basic communications with parents on an ongoing basis. Critical health and safety messages are sent through the same channel as event reminders and information requests, sometimes causing an overflow of information to overwhelmed parents.

There is a better way for schools to streamline communications, engage parents, and organize groups and volunteers. Introducing GroupGel™: the online application that helps schools connect, communicate and coordinate with students, parents, staff and volunteers more easily and effectively.

GroupGel minimizes the burden of managing communications and activities on already maxed-out staff. Once parents, students and staff are engaged in groups of interest, GroupGel makes it easy for them to interact in those groups, coordinate events and activities, and receive relevant information in the manner that they prefer. With GroupGel, coordination is easier so school groups can get on with the business of fulfilling their missions rather than getting hung up on logistics.

GroupGel In Action

From identifying the groups of greatest relevance, to managing events and coordinating schedules, GroupGel has the capabilities to facilitate all aspects of group management.

Streamlined communications

Due to an electrical problem, the stadium lights are malfunctioning and the coach decides to cancel tonight's football practice. He logs onto GroupGel to send a message to players and their parents before they make their way to the school. According to their preferences, parents receive this important information via text, email or voice message, helping avoid frustration and inconvenience, and saving tremendous time and trouble for the coach, who would have otherwise had to call each and every player.

Easy event coordination

The Booster Club is preparing for this weekend's away game and would like to recruit as many fans as possible to attend. Realizing that it's an inconvenience for many to make the drive to the opposing team's school - 50 miles away - they look into renting a bus. The Booster Club President logs into GroupGel to create an event invitation, and sends it to high school students and parents. The invitation encourages them to attend the event and requests a response from those who wish to reserve a seat on the bus. Within 24 hours, the President has filled the bus and sends a notification to those individuals to confirm and provide instructions on where to meet on Friday night.

Volunteer management

The second grade room mom is in charge of organizing the Thanksgiving celebration. She logs onto GroupGel and using the Schedule SignUp feature, creates a list of items needed for the feast. She issues this list to the class via email and requests that each parent sign up to bring a dish. On a first come, first serve basis, parents sign up to bring each of the different items. They can also see what other parents are bringing and when the list is complete. Two days before the event, she uses GroupGel to send a reminder to parents about the feast and the items they are supposed to bring. This saves her time, confusion, and the Thanksgiving celebration is a huge success!

GroupGel: Helping Schools Ace Collaboration and Communication

PROBLEM	THE GROUPGEL SOLUTION
Scheduling even the simplest of events can be extremely time-consuming. Keeping track of RSVPs delivered via email, phone calls, and casual mentions requires precision and time of already-busy staff members.	GroupGel makes scheduling events easy, collecting critical information about the event and sending notifications to the relevant group(s) instantly. With GroupGel's RSVP feature, all responses are consolidated in a single, easy-to-find location.
With so many volunteer activities, coordinating who will work when, what each person will bring, or who will do what, can divert precious volunteer time to managing logistics rather than serving those in need. A necessary but distracting part of managing volunteer events, coordinating logistics requires pen-and-paper forms, back-and-forth communication, and time and frustration on the part of staff or volunteer leaders.	GroupGel's Schedule Sign-up feature automates the paper-intensive process of managing sign-ups. Group members can self-assign from the list of times, items, or to dos, and can see who is doing what. This means increased efficiency, reduced time and frustration, and more successful coordination, ultimately increasing volunteer participation and productivity.
Communicating important messages such as schedule changes, cancellations or other unexpected events of a time-sensitive nature can be difficult and frustrating. Often phone chains are kicked off, requiring tremendous effort on the part of staff, letting some notifications fall through the cracks.	Using GroupGel's powerful communications platform, members can receive critical messages via text, email or voice, according to their preferences, increasing the chances that they will receive and read the information.
The school has important messages to communicate about events, programs, scheduling and sometimes emergencies. Currently, the office staff sends out all emails to all parents. Some have routed emails from the school to their "junk email," or simply ignore messages due to the volume of messages they receive. Now, when it's really important, the school can't get the response it needs.	GroupGel segments and organizes parents, students, staff and communications by group, enabling them to receive only relevant communications.

Get Parents, Students and Staff Engaged in School Groups and Activities!

GroupGel is now offering a beta program, exclusively for winter 2011/2012. Access this powerful tool for free in exchange for your feedback on the product. Contact us at (404) 939-1990 or info@groupgel.com to learn more!

About GroupGel

GroupGel is designed to let groups connect, communicate, and coordinate more easily and effectively. GroupGel is dedicated to uniting communities and elevating the contributions of its customers and those they serve. For more information, visit www.groupgel.com.

Inspire Your Congregation to Serve By Making Participation Easy

Filling the pews on Sunday morning is not enough to make a church successful. Churches that thrive need active members who participate in and support the church's activities and mission. A healthy church is a one whose members are involved on many levels: attending Sunday school, leading a small group, participating on a committee, serving in a particular ministry, or engaging in one of many volunteer opportunities.

No matter how motivated members are to serve, their engagement in the church depends on how easy it is for them to connect with the right groups. In large churches, members may find it difficult to identify and get involved with groups of interest. In small churches, they may sign up but never be contacted for one of many different reasons. Church staff and volunteers are often overwhelmed trying to coordinate events and activities using email, pen-and-paper sign-ups, and in-person interactions, making it even more difficult to engage members in the work of the church.

Introducing GroupGel™: the online application that helps churches connect, coordinate and communicate with their members more easily and effectively. This comprehensive group management tool lets you manage committees, groups, and activities in your church from a single platform. GroupGel's benefits include coordinating group activities, sending relevant messages to the right people, appropriately communicating important announcements, and managing volunteers with great ease and efficiency.

GroupGel removes tremendous burden from staff and group leaders, automating processes and streamlining the tasks associated with group management and communication. Ultimately, GroupGel allows the church to be a more productive body living out the Christian mission in the community.

Real-Life Applications

With GroupGel, church members are more engaged, groups are better organized, and coordination is easier – allowing your church to fulfill its missions rather than getting hung up on logistics.

Successful recruitment

A visitor to your church has attended three times and is interested in learning more about becoming a member. Using GroupGel, with just a name and email address, membership staff can instantly send a link to the visitor's email, which she can complete and submit to begin receiving events and information relevant to prospective members. The church is able to engage that guest while becoming a member is top-of-mind, increasing the chances that she will join.

Effective communications

Due to a water main break occurring late Saturday night, the pastor decides to cancel Sunday's service. He logs onto GroupGel to send a message to the staff and congregation. According to their preferences set in GroupGel, the staff and congregation receive this important message via text, email or a voice message, before they make their way to church on Sunday morning, helping avoid frustration and inconvenience.

Successful Service Projects

The church sponsors a disadvantaged public school in the area and regularly donates supplies, clothing, equipment, and time to mentor the students. Just before school starts, the church decides to run a campaign to improve the school facilities before the children return for the school year. The church works with school administrators to identify the areas that need to be addressed. The community projects minister logs on to GroupGel and uses the To Do feature to create a list of tasks that need to be completed: painting the classrooms, repairing broken locks, replacing burned out light bulbs, and picking up trash on the playground. The to do list is issued to the church's small groups. Church members self-assign to dos and keep the groups updated on their progress by marking the status in GroupGel.

GroupGel: Serving the Church So the Church Can Serve Others

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The church has important messages to communicate about events, programs, scheduling and currently sends out many emails to the entire membership base. Some members have routed emails from the church to their "junk" folder, or simply ignore messages due to the volume of messages they receive. Now, when it's really important, the church can't get the response it needs.	GroupGel segments and organizes members and communications by group, enabling members to receive only the communications most critical to them.

Get Your Members Engaged in Church

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