

COMMUNICATE

SchoolMessenger App

User Guide - Web

West Corporation

100 Enterprise Way, Suite A-300 Scotts Valley, CA 95066 888-527-5225 www.schoolmessenger.com





Table of Contents

Welcome!	3
Three Types of SchoolMessenger App Users	3
SchoolMessenger and the TCPA	
Look and Feel	4
Creating a SchoolMessenger App Account	5
Log In	6
Log Out	
Set up Your User Account	8
Your Profile and Role	3
Claim by Phone (School-Affiliated Users Only)	
Notification Preferences (School-Affiliated Users Only)	
Joining a Group (Parents and Students Only)	
Leaving a Group (Parents and Students Only)	
Contact Links - Parents and Guardians	13
About Messages	14
Message Components	
Anatomy of a Broadcast Message	15
Teacher Messaging	16
Viewing Groups	18
Create a Message	20
Delete an Entire Message Thread or a Member Comment	25
Responding to a SchoolMessenger App Message	25
Add an Attachment to a Reply	27
SchoolMessenger App with SafeArrival	29
Views	29
Calendar View	
List View	
Absences	
Editing an Absence	
Deleting an Absence	
Explaining an Absence	
Questions?	31



Welcome!



Important: Parents and student users who require assistance should contact their school or district.

The SchoolMessenger app allows schools and school districts to inform you about school-related emergencies, school closures, attendance or other school-related issues.

- As a Teacher, you have the ability to invite students, parents and/or guardians to join groups you've created, and send chat messages to them directly.
- As a Student, Parent or Guardian you can join a teacher-created group and participate in the classroom discussions. You can also customize how you receive those messages.
- For schools subscribing to SchoolMessenger's SafeArrival system, parents have the ability to report planned absences, late arrivals, early departures to the school in advance
- Roster Data Sync: Districts can use imported Roster Data files to sync users' SchoolMessenger Communicate account with their SchoolMessenger app account. Users with successfully synced accounts can participate in automatically-created groups created based on classroom data. We'll refer to these groups in this guide as Roster Data Groups.

You will find all of these messages in an easily-accessible inbox. If you are associated with students in different schools or districts, all matching records will be linked to your account. With flexible preference controls, most kinds of communication can be configured to be accessed exclusively via the SchoolMessenger app.



School-Affiliated User.

This is a teacher, student, or parent who is directly affiliated with a school or district, and who receives various types of SchoolMessenger Broadcast messages from the school or district. This user will have the ability to retrieve all these messages in the SchoolMessenger app, in addition to participating in the groups that general users also have access to.

School-Affiliated User with Roster-Synced Data

This is a teacher, student, or parent whose school has used imported student, parent, teacher and classroom data to automatically create groups in the app. District admins can restrict teachers to only participate in roster data groups, or can enable the ability for teachers to also create groups with an access code.

General User:

This can be anyone who has signed up to use the SchoolMessenger app and has been granted access to one of the discussion groups created by a teacher. They could be a member of the community who has been invited by a teacher (e.g. an aeronautical engineer offering advice and insights to senior high school students interested in the physics of flight and aircraft design).





SchoolMessenger and the TCPA

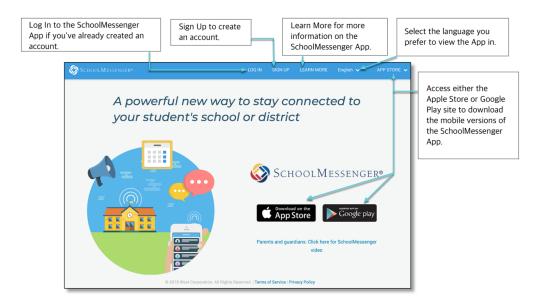


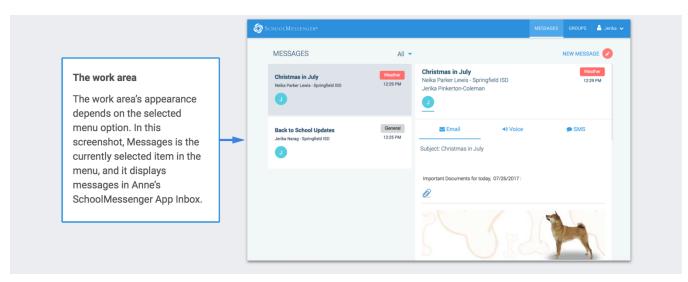
The Telephone Consumer Protection Act (47 U.S.C. 227) is a law that was passed by the US Congress in 1991. This law places restrictions on telephone solicitations and the use of automated telephone equipment, protecting the public from receiving unwanted phone calls.

While schools enjoy exemptions from some of these restrictions, the preference configurations within the SchoolMessenger App allow you to set your consent state ("yes" or "no") for each phone number associated with your account. With the exception of emergency calls, which cannot be exempted, any phone number whose consent state is set to "no" will not receive calls from SchoolMessenger.

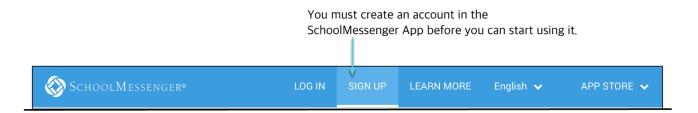
Look and Feel

The SchoolMessenger app interface is simple and uncluttered.





Creating a SchoolMessenger App Account



To get started:

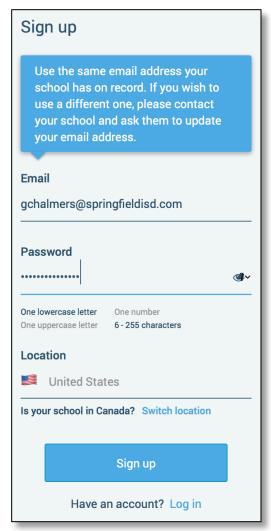
- 1. Enter the following URL in your browser's address bar. go.schoolmessenger.com
- 2. Click SIGN UP on the menu.
- Important: If you already have an email address that the school has on record, use this email address when you sign up.
 - 3. Enter your email address, your location and a password.

Your password must contain have at least:

- 1 lowercase letter
- 1 uppercase letter
- 1 number
- 6 characters

You will be sent an email at the email address provided. Click the link in the email to verify your account. A new page will open on your browser.

Note: the link in the email is only valid for 24 hours. If you don't click on it and log into the SchoolMessenger app within that time period, it will expire and be of no further use. You will have to restart the registration process and have a new email sent to you with a renewed link.





Your user type and school's district settings determines which messages you receive and how you receive them.

 If you are a school-affiliated user, our support teams would have entered your email address into their system. As your information is registered in the school or district records, you will receive all the messages you have subscribed to receive from the school. You must use this <u>same email address</u> in creating your SchoolMessenger app account.

Your school's district admin will configure your message settings and what features you will see when you log in.

If you are a general user, you can still participate in any of the SchoolMessenger app groups that you
have been invited to participate in, but you will not, of course, receive Broadcasts from the school or
district.

Log In

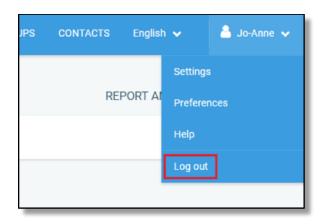
To log into the SchoolMessenger app:

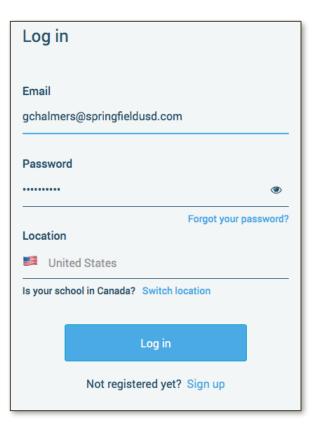
- 1. Click on LOG IN on the menu.
- 2. Enter the email address, password and location you used to register in the SchoolMessenger app.

Click on **Forgot your password?** if you forgot your password. An email will be sent to you allowing you to register a new password.

Log Out

- 1. Click the downward-pointing arrow next to your name in the top right corner of the app.
- 2. Click Log out.





School-Affiliated User Only

When you first sign into the SchoolMessenger App, you will receive the following prompt for any phone numbers at which you have not already provided SchoolMessenger consent to receive voice calls.

Select "Yes" or "No" as your preference. Your preference will be saved for each of your phone numbers. Consent preferences can be changed at any given time through the SchoolMessenger App's **Preferences** option (discussed later).

We recommend that you spend a few moments considering your notification preferences to ensure that you receive all the emails, phone calls, and text messages you would like to receive.

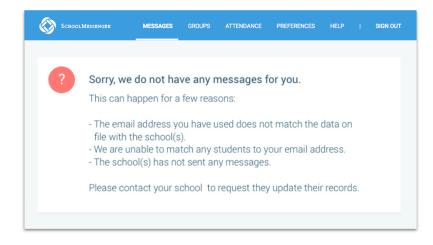




It is possible that certain factors such as a recently changed phone number, change of billing info, or a temporary disconnection may nullify consent for a phone number for which you had previously provided consent. If this happens, you will see the above permission prompt reappear. Simply reselect and save your preference.



If you see any variation on the following message when logging in to the SchoolMessenger App, please contact the school to ensure they have your email address associated with the appropriate school records. Once the corrections have been made, you will need to sign out, then sign back in again, at which point the problem will have been corrected.

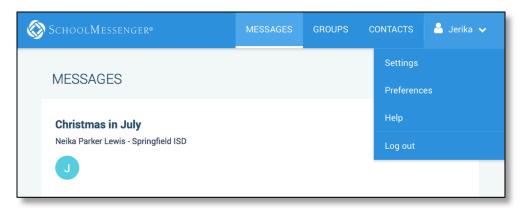




Set up Your User Account

Once you have logged in successfully, you must set up the SchoolMessenger app for your use. Set up includes the following:

- setting up your Profile and Role
- setting Notification preferences (school-affiliated users only)
- joining Groups that you have been invited by teachers to join



Your Profile and Role

For all User Types, follow the below steps to set up your User Account:

- 1. Click your name in the menu.
- Click Settings.
- 3. Enter your first name, last name, and your Role type (Teacher, Student, or Parent).



Your settings must be completed before an account can be used. Failure to do so will cause the system to log you out, and you will be prompted to enter this data next time you log in.

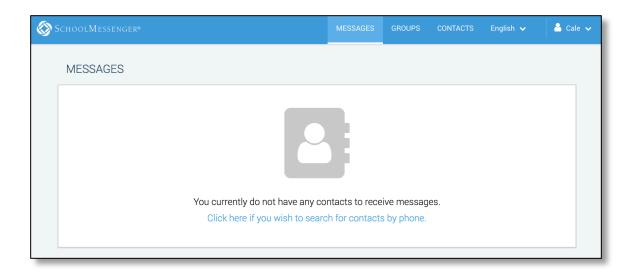


You can change your Role type (from teacher, to student, to parent) whenever you like, BUT in doing so, you obliterate your entire message history and essentially restart as a new user. If you are a teacher and a parent, you can use two different email addresses to register and to login into the system.

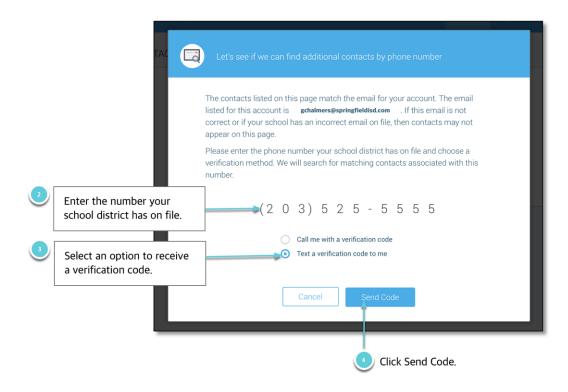


Claim by Phone (School-Affiliated Users Only)

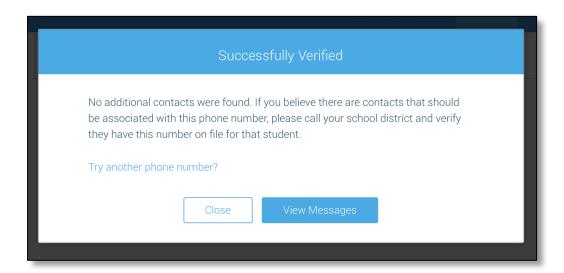
If you've chosen the "Parent" or "Student" role and the SchoolMessenger app isn't able to match your email to any contact data in their systems, your message inbox will appear empty. You'll have the option to try to match a potential school record using your phone number.



- 1. Click the "...search for contacts by phone" link at the bottom of the screen. A window pops up asking you to input your phone number.
- 2. Enter your phone number your school district has on file.
- 3. Select an option to receive a verification code.
- 4. Click Send Code. A verification code will be sent to the number you entered.
- 5. Input the verification code your received and click Verify.



If verification was successful, you'll see the following screen:



- If the system found additional contacts, they will be automatically added to your app under CONTACTS.
- If the system didn't find additional contacts, you can try another number by clicking the "Try another phone number?" link. If no phone numbers work, contact your school district to verify that you have the correct phone number they have on file.



Notification Preferences (School-Affiliated Users Only)

SchoolMessenger

For all User Types, follow the below steps to set up your User Account:

- 1. Click on the menu option with your login name in it.
- 2. Click on the **Preferences** option. The preferences on this page affect SchoolMessenger Broadcasts that may be sent to you from the school/district. They do not affect messages sent and received from within the SchoolMessenger App.

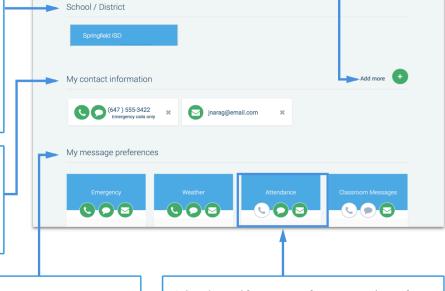
Additional email and telephone numbers can be added by clicking on Add more (e.g. a workplace email address can be added in addition to the personal email address already on file in SchoolMessenger).

School/District:

Shows the school(s) and district(s) that you are connected with. There can be more than one school or district here, as it is possible for a student to be enrolled at more than one school, a parent/guardian to have children/wards in more than one school or district, and a teacher to teach at more than one school/district.

Contact Information:

Displays all the email addresses and telephone numbers (voice and SMS text) at which you can be contacted. Icons for voice and SMS text are selected.



Message Preferences:

Shows all the types of messages which the school/district has set up in their SchoolMessenger setup. Hence, more or fewer message types may appear here with unique names, defined as such by the school/district. You can select how you wish to be contacted for each message type.

Select the card for any type of message and specify your preference of communication for that specific topic. For example, the parent in the above screenshot, has opted to receive attendance messages via email and SMS, but not via voice call.



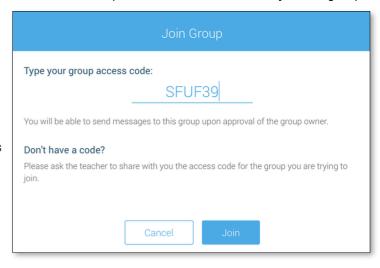
Note: The maximum number of phone numbers and email numbers you can enter into the system is controlled by your district admin.

Joining a Group (Parents and Students Only)

Teachers can set up conversation or discussion groups in which students and parents can participate. But before such participation can occur, participants must be invited and provided an access code to join the group.

Participants can join as many groups as they are invited to participate in. To join a group:

- 1. Click on the **Groups** menu option.
- 2. Click on Join Group.
- 3. In the Join Group window, enter the access code that was provided to you.
- 4. Click on Join.



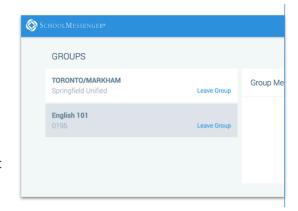
For Roster Data Groups...

If the system syncs your email address with roster data your school has imported, you will find yourself already signed up to Roster Data Groups. The system automatically creates Roster Data Groups based on Classroom and Teacher data.

Leaving a Group (Parents and Students Only)

Leaving a group is simple:

- 1. Click on the **Groups** menu option.
- Click on Leave Group to the left of the group you wish to leave, and then confirm that you no longer want to be part of the group in the next window.



For Roster Data Groups...

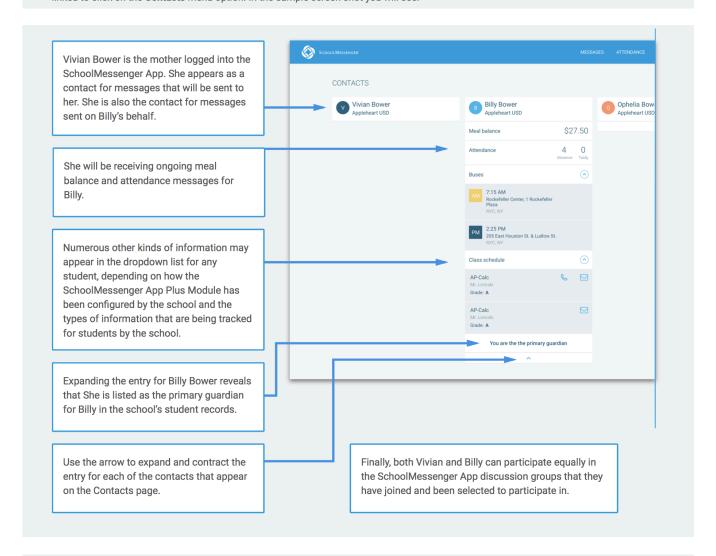
You will not have the option to leave Roster Data Groups you're assigned to. If you're a participant of a group you're not supposed to be a part of, contact your school district to correct this.

Contact Links - Parents and Guardians

(Plus Module: Subscribed School-Affiliated Users Only)

The Contacts menu option will only appear in the SchoolMessenger App implementation in which the school/district has subscribed and purchased the SchoolMessenger App Plus Module.

Parent and guardian records in SchoolMessenger are linked to students attending one or more schools or districts. In fact, the SchoolMessenger App accounts are validated with reference to those records. To see which students parent/guardian accounts are linked to click on the **Contacts** menu option. In the sample screen shot you will see:





If there is a school or district that you expect to see on the Contacts page, but is not there, you will need to contact the specific school or district to ensure that the email address in the school records matches the one that you use to sign into the SchoolMessenger App. It is on the basis of that match that messages from the school or district make their way to your SchoolMessenger App account. Once the two email addresses have been harmonized, you will need to sign out, then sign in again, to see them take effect.



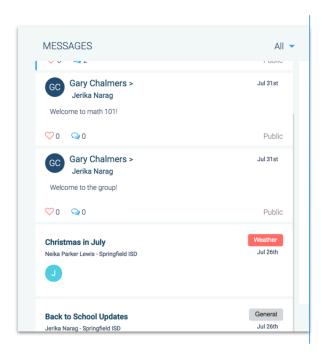
About Messages

The SchoolMessenger app's Messages page displays all messages (voice, email, or text) sent to you from your school and/or district during the last 30 days, as well as the messages and conversations that have taken place in the SchoolMessenger app group(s) you have joined.

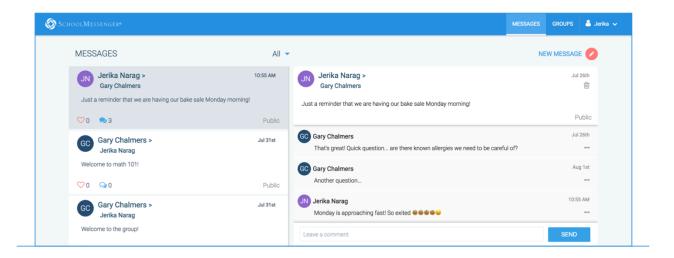
They are sorted newest first, oldest last. The headings of all messages will appear on the left side of the Messages screen.

There are two types of messages:

- Sent by the school or district as SchoolMessenger Broadcasts to schoolaffiliated users (e.g. Emergency or Attendance messages).
- Sent either publicly or privately by participants who are members of a SchoolMessenger app group.



Message Components



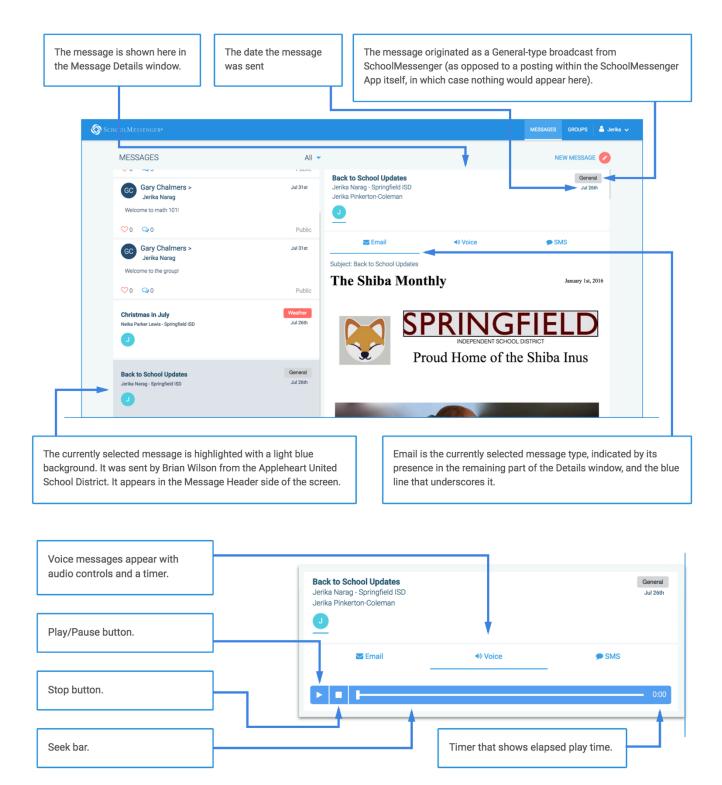


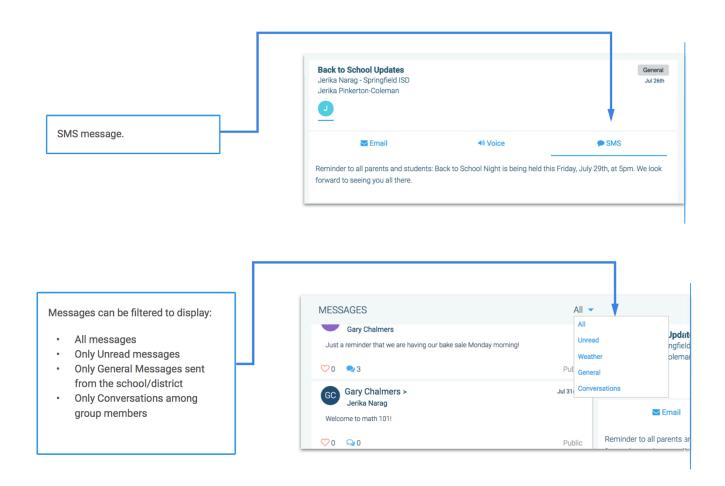
The SchoolMessenger App automatically assigns the color and initial of the each of the student-identification circles. Neither the color nor the initial are editable.



Anatomy of a Broadcast Message

(School-Affiliates Users Only)





Teacher Messaging

Differences between Teacher Accounts and Student/Parent Accounts:

In addition to receiving school/district messages and engaging in the SchoolMessenger App-based discussions just like any other SchoolMessenger App user, teachers have additional abilities that students and parents do not have.

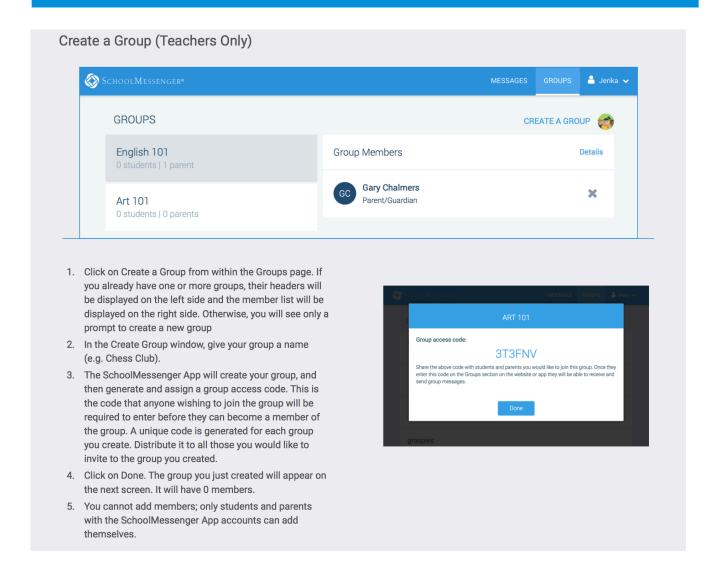
Only teachers can do all the following:

- Receive SchoolMessenger messages sent from the school or district.
- Create SchoolMessenger App groups and invite students and parents to participate in them.
- Send messages to selected recipients (any combination of all/selected students/parents).
- Delete messages that have been posted in any of the forums that they have created and control.
- Engage in discussions and conversations in any of the forums that they have created.

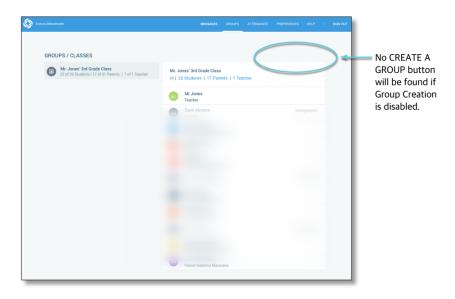
While students and parents can only:

- Receive SchoolMessenger messages sent from the school or district (if their account is school-affiliated).
- Engage in discussions and conversations in any of the forums they have group participation in.



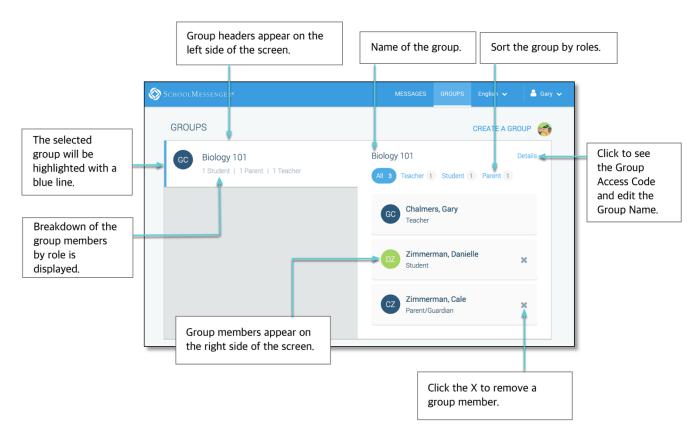


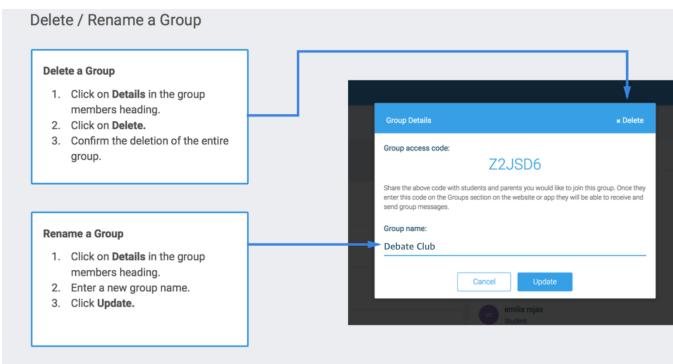
If group creation is **disabled**, your Groups page will not have a **CREATE A GROUP** button:



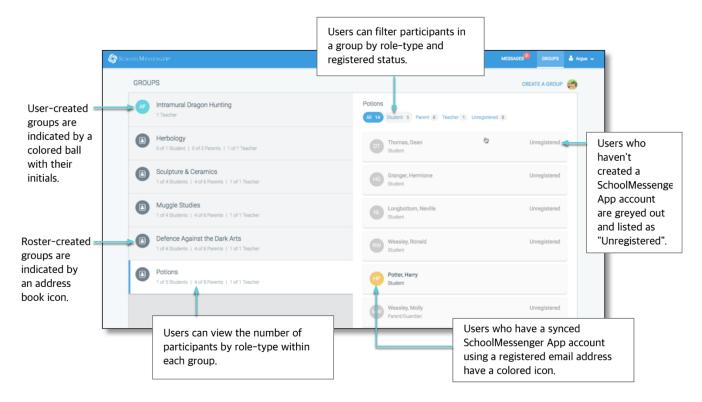
Viewing Groups

For user-created groups:





For Roster Data Groups:



Unlike user-created groups, Roster Data Groups cannot be edited by the teacher. There isn't a **Details** button that will allow the user to change the group name or delete the group. Teacher's also can't remove or add participants and participants can't remove or add themselves into groups.

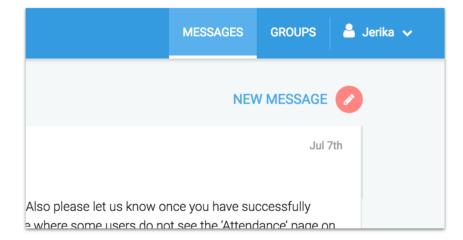


Create a Message

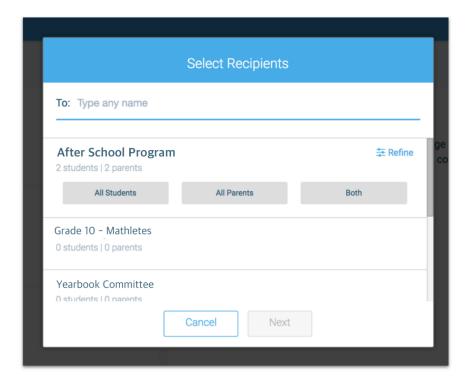
Creating a message is a very simple process. You select the recipients your message will be sent to, designate whether their comments will be readable to others in the group, solely by the teacher, or not at all (comment not permitted).

To create a Message:

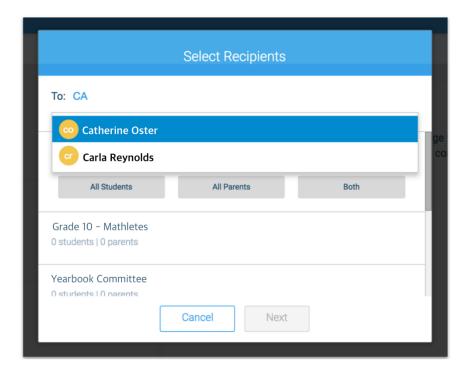
1. Click on New Message.



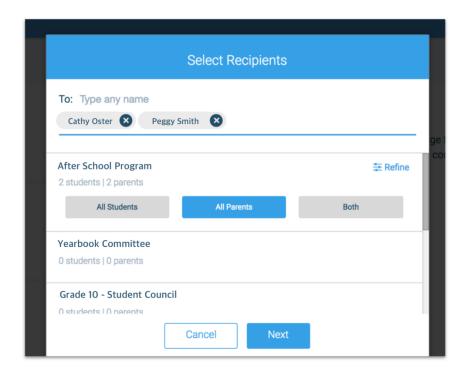
 The Select Recipients window appears. You can select an individual for your message or you can select numerous individuals from amongst the groups you have created.



3. Start entering the first or last name of any individual recipient that you would like this message to be sent to, and the SchoolMessenger App will locate and display all records that contain the sequence of letters you typed in either the first or last name. Click to select the appropriate individual from the

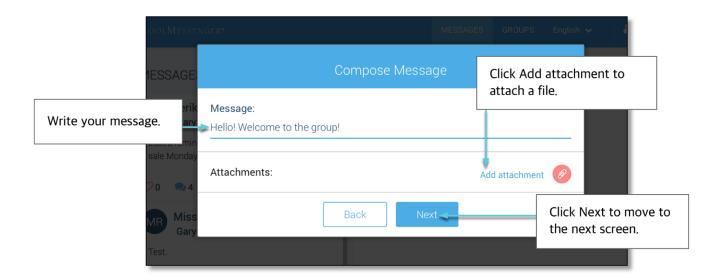


- Click on the group that you would like to draw the recipients from. You can only select one group at a time.
- The group section expands, allowing you to select your recipients from among only students, only parents, or from among both sub-groups.
- 6. When you click on one of the subgroups, the names of all the individuals in that subgroup will appear in the To: section, indicating that they have all been selected as recipients for the messages. Clicking on the X next to each name that you wish to remove from the recipient list. (Selection here is by exclusion.)
- Click on Refine if you want to be able to select individuals separately from the Students and Parents subgroups. (Selection here is by inclusion.)



8. Click Next.

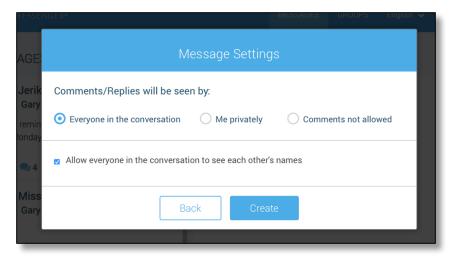
The **Compose Message** window appears.



Select your Message Settings:

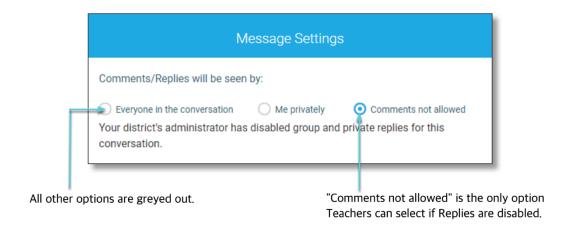
If you're ready to send your message, select your Message Settings:

- Everyone in the conversation: comments to your message will be seen by the entire group
- Me Privately: only the teacher will see comments sent by individuals
- Comments not allowed: no one will be able to send a response
- Commenters' names: check the box to allow everyone to see everyone's names



Replies Disabled

If your replies have been disabled by a system administrator, you will only have 1 option when sending your message – "Comments not allowed":



Add Attachments

Use attachments to send the following file types to parents, guardians and students:

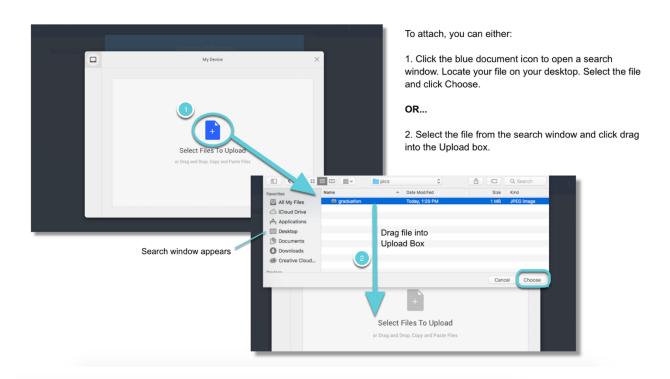
- images (PNG, JPG)
- documents (PDF, DOC, DOCX, PPT, PPTX)
- video (MP4)
- audio (MP3, WAV, M4A)

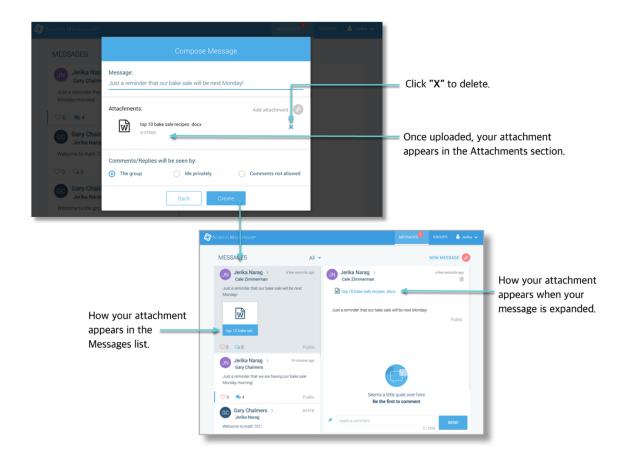
Note that the max file size is 20MB and you can only send 1 attachment per message.

To attach a file, click the Attachment icon:



After clicking the **Attachment** icon, the **Upload** box appears:

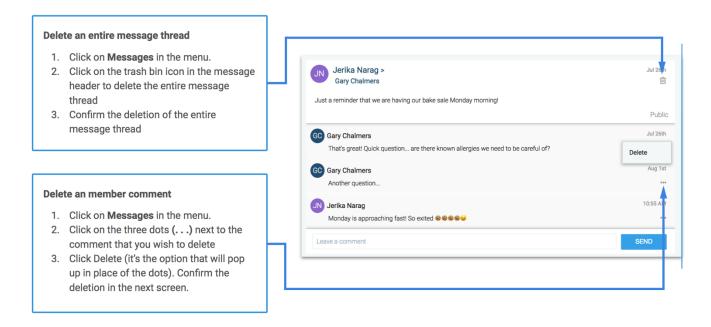






Delete an Entire Message Thread or a Member Comment

- Teachers can delete whole message threads or single comments.
- Parents and students can delete their own comments.



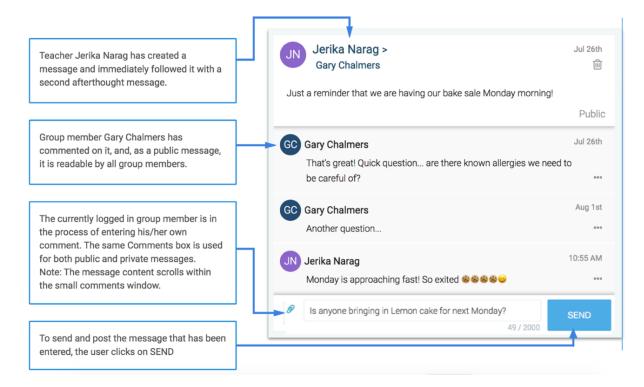
Responding to a SchoolMessenger App Message

Anyone receiving a SchoolMessenger app-based message created by a teacher may read the message, and, **if enabled**, read the comments of other group members and reply.

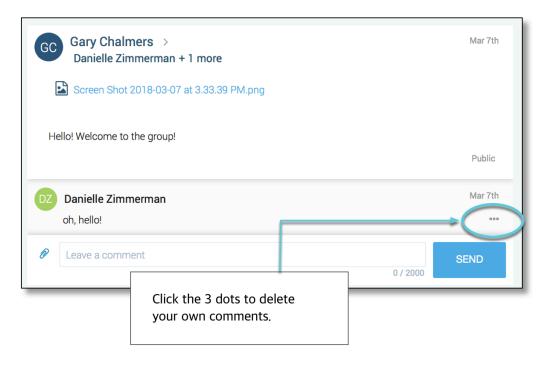
The circumstances are defined by the teacher who created the original message or our support teams. Messages may be configured so that:

- comments can be entered and read by everyone
- comments can be entered by group members but will be received privately and read only by the teacher
- no comments are allowed.

The below is an example of how a message thread appears to a recipient:



Delete Your Comment (parents and students)



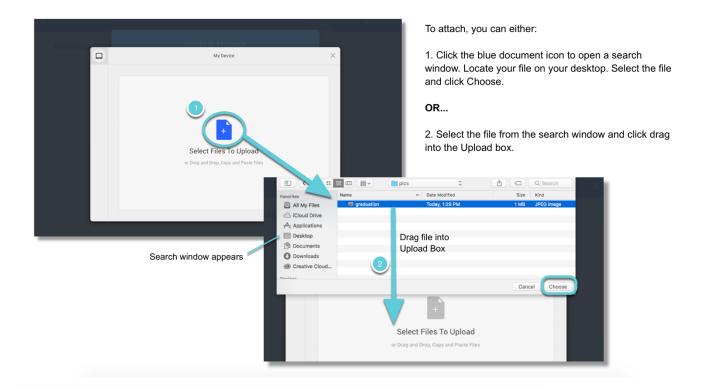
Add an Attachment to a Reply

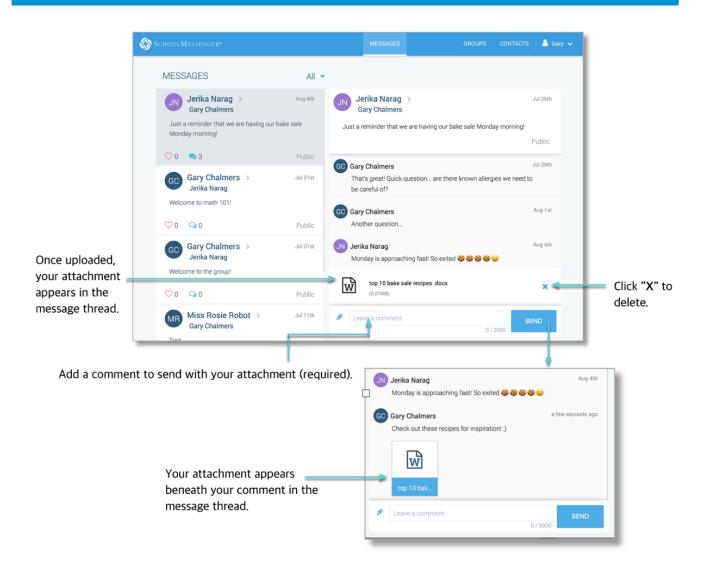
Use attachments to send the following file types in your reply:

- images (PNG, JPG)
- documents (PDF, DOC, DOCX, PPT, PPTX)
- video (MP4)
- audio (MP3, WAV, M4A)

Note that the max file size is 20MB and you can only send 1 attachment per message.

After clicking the paperclip icon, the Upload box appears:





SchoolMessenger App with SafeArrival

If your email address is associated with at least one child in a school that is actively using SafeArrival, you will see the **ATTENDANCE** option on the menu. This is shown at the top of the screen on the website.

Note: If you do not see the ATTENDANCE menu or your student(s), please check with the school to make sure you are using the email address that they have on record for you.



Views

Calendar View

To go to the previous or next month, click the < or > at the top of the calendar.

List View

To scroll through the list of absences, use the scroll bar on the right-hand side of the screen to move the list.

Absences

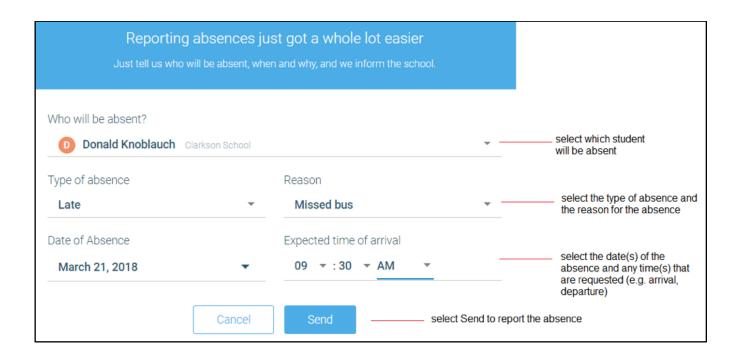
Absences can be reported in advance for the school year. On the day of the absence however, absences cannot be reported after the school's cut-off time. The cut-off time is determined by the school and may vary. If SafeArrival tells you it is past the cut-off time for reporting absences for the current day, you will need to contact the school directly.

Reporting an Absence

Follow these instructions to report an absence using SafeArrival:



- 2. Be sure to enter your selections for all of the requested items. If the **Send** button is not activated, it means you've missed something.
- 3. Select **Send** to report the absence.



Editing an Absence

If you have reported an absence in advance and decide that you need to edit the absence BEFORE the cut-off time on the day of the absence, follow these steps:

- 1. Tap/Click the absence (in List View) or the day of the absence (in Calendar View), then EDIT.
- 2. Make the required changes then tap/click SEND.

If you need to change the details for an absence after the cut-off time on the day of the absence, contact the school directly.

Deleting an Absence

If you have reported an absence in advance and decide that you need to delete the absence BEFORE the cut-off time on the day of the absence, follow these steps:

- 1. Tap/Click the absence (in List View) or the day of the absence (in Calendar View), then **DELETE**.
- 2. Tap/Click **Delete** to confirm that you want to delete the absence.

If you need to delete an absence after the cut-off time on the day of the absence, contact the school directly.

Explaining an Absence

If your student is marked absent and you have not reported the absence in advance, you will be notified of the absence. You can use the mobile apps or website to explain your student's absence.

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact your school or district.

Feel free to forward app inquiries or feedback to the following:

appfeedback@schoolmessenger.com