



## Using RSS Feeds

Keep up with the latest news from D200 websites, as well as the most recent postings on our Virtual Backpack with our RSS newsfeeds.

### What is RSS?

RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is an easy way for you to receive an automatic notification when content appears on the D200 websites. Each update includes a brief description of the content and a link to it.

### How to use an RSS feed

To begin using RSS, you need an RSS reader which allows you to display and subscribe to RSS feeds. An RSS reader will scan websites of your choosing, such as the D200 Virtual Backpack, and automatically download new information posted to those sites. Many RSS readers can be found through any search engine and quickly downloaded to your computer, and some internet browsers have news reader capability built in. Google Reader is a free, simple web-based program that will allow you to aggregate all of your feeds in one location. Additionally, there are many other RSS readers available for all operating systems.

Once you have chosen and downloaded your reader, select any of D200's feeds from the bottom of any page. You will see two options: "RSS Feed" and "Virtual Backpack." If you choose "RSS Feed," you will be able to subscribe to the News & Announcements section (on the homepage) of whatever site you are currently in. For example, if you have children at Verda Dierzen and at Greenwood Elementary, you may wish to subscribe to the RSS feed from both schools. Then, when you check your RSS reader, you will see a listing of the most recent articles posted on both sites. You may also choose "Virtual Backpack" which will create a separate RSS feed from the district's Virtual Backpack page. With this option, your reader will display the most recent postings that have been added to the Virtual Backpack.

Use of the RSS feed is certainly not necessary. You may, of course, just bookmark pages of interest and check them whenever you choose. However, if there are several different areas that are of interest to you (for example, the District homepage, Westwood, Creekside *and* the Virtual Backpack) subscribing to the various RSS feeds allows you to go to one central location and see the most updated information that has been posted to each of them.

For more information on using RSS feeds, just go to any search engine and search "How to use RSS feeds." There are a number of excellent articles and tutorials available that will further explain how RSS feeds work, and how you can use them to maximize your use of sites that are of interest to you.