

## Students at Lincoln Park Public Schools travel the virtual world with Google Apps for Education



### About Lincoln Park Public Schools

- <http://lincolnparkpublicschools.com>
- Lincoln Park, Michigan
- 4,800 students

### Goals

- Provide students with access to technology and online learning
- Provide teachers and staff more opportunities for collaboration and sharing

### Approach

- Launched Google Apps for Education for teachers, students and staff
- Introduced Chromebooks districtwide

### Results

- Introduced students to new experiences and global education
- Increased real-time communication between teachers and students
- Improved collaboration between teachers and staff
- Automated manual tasks to save administrative time

### About Lincoln Park Public Schools

Nestled in southeastern Michigan, the city of Lincoln Park is home to nearly 40,000 residents and Lincoln Park Public Schools, a school district with more than 4,800 students, 287 teachers, and seven elementary schools, a middle school and high school. Lincoln Park's goal is to prepare and inspire its students to achieve educational excellence.

### Challenge

The majority of students at Lincoln Park Public schools lack access to technology at home. Additionally, many struggle with state standardized test questions that don't factor in students' with diverse backgrounds — for instance, those that require knowledge of travel. It was clear to the school district that students needed experience with and access to technology to be successful at testing, in their further education and in their careers.

Lincoln Park Public Schools' staff also needed a faster and more efficient way to share information with one another and with students. Teachers carried around large, cumbersome binders containing their curriculum, and needed to print out and replace them regularly. Administrative staff manually collected budget, attendance and scheduling information.

### Solution

The team at Lincoln Park Public Schools, Ken Jacobs, director of technology, Andrew Sueta, instructional technology integration specialist, and Cheryl Irving, assistant superintendent, introduced Google Apps for Education and provided Chromebooks for students and staff across the district. The school district was able to purchase hundreds of Chromebooks and provide Google Apps for thousands of students and hundreds of teachers due to their low cost. They started teaching students how to use Chromebooks and Google Apps for research and classwork. Using Chromebooks, teachers assign students projects that give them a way to explore different cultures and regions beyond their own.

*"The staff collaborates more using Google Apps for Education. Now the teachers can share their lesson plans and learn from one another."*  
— Ken Jacobs, Director of Technology, Lincoln Park Public Schools

The teachers and staff also use Google Apps to collaborate and collect information. Teachers work with one another by sharing Google Docs, Slides and Sheets. They also provide students with fast, real-time feedback via shared Docs.

---

*"At Lincoln Park Public Schools, we now have the ability to bring virtual knowledge into the classroom. Many of our students have never been to a farm or gone on vacation, so when our students take standardized tests they can't keep up because they don't have the context for some of the questions. The virtual experience opens up the world for them and allows them to learn more about these things."*

— Cheryl Irving, Assistant Superintendent,  
Lincoln Park Public Schools

---

*"It's amazing to watch how fast our kindergartens are learning how to use Google Apps. We've seven year olds collaborating in Google Docs and 4th and 5th grade classes creating Google presentations."*

— Andrew Sueta, Instructional Technology  
Integration Specialist

---

---

## Google for Education

A solution built for learning and designed for the classroom that includes easy-to-manage, affordable devices like Chromebooks, productivity tools like Google Apps for Education with Classroom, and limitless educational content in Google Play for Education. Together these tools help teachers inspire curiosity, while students learn better together, wherever they are.

---

## Benefits

### Bringing global experiences into the classroom

Before, students only had access to the books in the library for research. Now students have unlimited access to information online. Using Chromebooks, students can even do their online research while working on their assignments in Google Classroom, all of the information they need is in one place.

Says Cheryl Irving:, "We now have the ability to bring virtual knowledge into the classroom. The virtual experience opens up the world for our students and allows them to learn more."

Teachers can instantly share materials, such as videos, photos, interactive games and group assignments, to make learning more engaging and personalized. When students play educational games on their Chromebooks, they don't even realize they're learning, explained Andrew Sueta. Education becomes hands-on and fun.

### Delivering real-time feedback and instant communication

Before launching Google Classroom, students finished an assignment, turned it in and waited for a final grade. Now, teachers are able to give real-time feedback to students as they work on an assignment in Docs. Teachers can even send out a quiz with Google Forms directly after a lesson to find out how much students understood.

Students and teachers at every grade level are able to use Google Apps. Students as young as second grade are learning how to use Chromebooks and Google Apps. Says Andrew Sueta, "It's amazing to see how fast our students are learning how to use Google Apps. We have second graders collaborating in Google Docs and fourth-grade classes creating presentations with Google Slides."

### Increased administrative efficiency and knowledge sharing

Teachers and administrative staff now save time by automating manual tasks with Google Apps. When the administrative office needs teachers to share attendance information, they send a survey via Google Forms and the information submitted by teachers is automatically entered into a spreadsheet. Administrators used to collect this information manually from all 287 teachers.

Additionally, says Ken Jacobs, "Teachers collaborate more using Google Apps for Education. Now the teachers can share their lesson plans and learn from one another." This ability to share knowledge, curricular materials and expertise has helped teachers save time and kept them from working in silos. Now, teachers enjoy learning from their colleagues' experiences and sharing their own.

The team at Lincoln Park's Public Schools firmly believes that access to technology is a vital part of its mission to prepare and inspire students to achieve educational excellence. The ability to seek out knowledge online and collaborate with peers and teachers not only prepares students for the workplace, it brings the larger world into the classroom, exposing them to new experiences and cultures.

