

Making learning easier

Fast, reliable, affordable - how Google for Education tools helped to transform student outcomes

Emmaus Christian College at a Glance

With 900 students and 130 staff, spread across two sites, Emmaus Christian College in South Australia is a buzzing community, committed to providing the highest level of education to students aged three to 18 years old.

An early and enthusiastic adopter of all things technology, a test-and-learn approach has seen the school transition to Google Workspace for Education Plus, with undeniable benefits and results.



Challenge

IT Manager Matt Starczak likes to tell an old tech joke that the 'Holy Grail' of IT is to find a solution that's fast, cheap and reliable - but can only ever choose two of these options. Seven years ago, Matt was struggling to achieve any of these goals with one of the school's previous technology.

With the school's old solution, students' work would be deleted if a device needed to be refreshed, and students and teachers alike struggled to use the technology.

"That was the way the devices were and everyone just accepted those issues as part of the technology. It was horrible!" Matt says.



Once parents and teachers saw how easy and reliable Chromebooks were to use, they were keen to give them a try. That was more than six years ago and it's been game changing for students, teachers, and staff at Emmaus".

Matt Starczak,
IT Manager, Emmaus Christian College

Matt and his team desperately needed devices that were easy for students and teachers to use, and, above all, were reliable.

Solution

When Matt saw a Chromebook demonstration, he was blown away by how easy, intuitive, and capable the device was. He made a recommendation for the school to try Chromebooks with the Chrome Education Upgrade.

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Chromebooks are now 1:1 across grades 3-9 and the Google Workspace for Education Plus suite is now across most teaching, learning, and management operations in the school.

"I'm convinced that the impact of having a reliable, easy, problem-free device in the hands of the students at Emmaus is one of the contributing reasons to why our students are doing well."

Making the impossible possible

Solution deep dive

Reliable devices that work well for students and teachers. While it doesn't sound like a big ask, particularly for a school with its own IT department, Matt admits it wasn't as easy as it should have been.

"That was when we discovered Google Classroom and started being able to solve the issue of lost work." Google Classroom is designed with the end user in mind and can be deployed by anyone in minutes. It allows students to switch seamlessly between tasks and work simultaneously in the same document with the whole class. And it's all stored safely and securely in the cloud.

"But we still needed better devices on a fast, stable, secure network that supported the goals of students or teachers." The school invested in Chromebooks with the Chrome Education Upgrade for grades 3 - 9, resulting in significantly improved teaching and learning outcomes, as well as easier management for IT. Matt now says the most common reason for students to seek IT help with Chromebooks is because they forgot to charge their device the previous night.



Easy Education Solutions

What they wanted

- 1:1 devices that were easy for students to use
- A fast, reliable network that provided a high level of security and control for teachers and IT decision makers
- Engaging, exciting ways for teachers to educate that inspired greater collaboration across student cohorts and subjects
- Time and cost-effective IT solutions to streamline and reduce the number of hours IT decision makers were spending troubleshooting unreliable or tricky devices.

What they did

- Deployed Chromebooks with the Chrome Education Upgrade to Grades 3-9
- Introduced Google Workspace for Education Plus to all grades for teaching and learning purposes
- Used Google Docs, Slides and Calendars to allow teachers to better collaborate across departments, specifically for curriculum planning and documentation
- Installed more creative and collaborative programs and apps in areas such as music and art, including Noteflight, WeVideo and App Inventor, to increase teacher's abilities and student engagement

What they achieved

- Improved student outcomes. Teachers reported a dramatic improvement in student engagement, even during periods of remote learning
- Lower than estimated IT staff recruitment due to the speed and ease of installing and using new devices for staff and students
- Time and cost savings for IT decision makers who no longer had to spend hours refreshing devices and troubleshooting issues
- Simplified deployment. The school's record is getting 80 Chromebooks off the delivery truck, unboxed, activated and into the hands of students in three hours.

Key Benefits

With students and staff on board to make life easier, and the constant support and help of IT partner Learning With Technologies, Matt and his IT department were able to integrate the whole Google for Education offering across the school, on all devices, in a seamless, stress-free way.

1

Significant time and cost savings

It's hard to believe the time and cost saved thanks to Chromebooks with the Chrome Education Upgrade. Matt says the devices continue to save time and cost long after purchase when you consider the time spent fixing, refreshing and deploying their old devices. "Because the device itself is so straightforward, you are actually saving money over time."

3

Confidence and peace of mind regarding control and security

Using Chromebooks with the Chrome Education Upgrade means the school has full control of all devices, what extensions and apps students can use, and who sends, receives and stores data, meaning a high level of safety and security community-wide. "We can lock users to our domain, meaning if the device is stolen it has zero value because no one but an Emmaus student or staff member can access it."

2

Robust, reliable devices that stay the distance

While enthusiastic tech-savvy learners, not all students are the most careful when it comes to looking after their devices. This isn't an issue, says Matt, when it comes to Chromebooks. "We made our initial purchase of Chromebooks six years ago. We have total confidence they'll work for several more years to come."

4

Better outcomes for students

Emmaus is smashing NAPLAN expectations, and the results are supported by students being able to be so creative, collaborative and excited to learn on devices that they know will work well every time they pick them up. "I'm convinced that the impact of having a reliable, easy, problem-free device in the hands of the students at Emmaus is one of the contributing reasons why our students are doing so well."

Reach out



Contact Learning with Technologies on 1300 550 717 to find out how Google for Education tools can help you achieve your teaching and learning goals.