

Google for Education provides digital knowledge sharing in Agora education

Autonomous learning and collaboration is central to Agora Roermond. The student always determines an appropriate learning question with the coach. Everyone follows their own learning process.

Background

Agora is a fairly new movement within Dutch education. Pupils receive lessons in the form of learning questions and are guided by coaches. The school does not work with a fixed curriculum. Instead, each student determines together with a coach which learning question he or she wants to investigate. Mutual knowledge sharing, such as on a Greek agora, is indispensable in this.

Challenge

The Roermond Agora school faced a number of challenges. First of all, knowledge sharing is an important pillar in this form of education. In order to further facilitate knowledge sharing online, there was a need for an intuitive, digital environment. The ultimate goal was to let students from different groups work together with as few restrictions or obstacles as possible. In addition, it was important to increase the pride of their coaches and reduce the workload.

Solution

The school was already using parts of the Google Workspace, especially Gmail and Google Docs. From that position, Agora Roermond opted for the full switch to Google Workspace and Chromebooks five years ago. "It was a no-brainer to switch here," says Rob Houben, team leader at Agora Roermond. "We were already using Google Workspace, so adding the new devices feels like an extension of the entire offering."

This switch immediately gave both students and coaches the right access within the digital learning environment of Google for Education. It is now easy for the system administrator to set who should work together. Students can also share their files with each other online.

"We don't have to 'teach' the children anything or explain anything about the digital tools or devices. They can start immediately," Houben explains. "When we see that someone is very skilled with, for example, Google Docs, we let them share their knowledge through the central part of the school. That is very motivating for everyone."





You shouldn't let your educational vision depend on tools, but see what suits your way of teaching. Google Workspace and Chromebooks enable us to work together efficiently. As a result, those tools help us reduce the workload and improve the learning process of our students”

Marcel Houben,
Team leader Agora Roermond.



Benefits

Intuitive interfaces

Because Google Workspace and Chromebooks have a simple layout, everything works extremely intuitively. As a result, students can start working with the tools and devices themselves from moment one. In case there are questions, they can investigate this together and find an answer to their question. But because of the user-friendly interfaces, these questions are hardly there.

Easily share knowledge

Both coaches and students can share documents with Google for Education. For example, once set up, they can access each other's shared files and also share knowledge online. The digitization enhances the learning process of the students. In addition, Agora Roermond coaches and students can easily collaborate via digital formats. At the same time, the coaches can give direct feedback on the shared files.

Routine tasks canceled

By using digital tools, it becomes a lot easier for coaches to keep track of their students' progress. Everything is automatically calculated, adjusted and noted. This gives the coaches more time to guide the students with their learning questions. They therefore need to perform less routine tasks to provide the students with good support.



What did the school want?

- One digital environment for collaboration and knowledge sharing
- Intuitive applications and devices for coaches and students



What have they done?

- Google Workspace implemented and associated Google tools
- Offer lessons with Chromebooks



What have they accomplished?

- Reduced workload for teachers to eliminate routine tasks and more attention to the students
- Motivated students who can get started with new tools and devices; heaps of teachers interested outside and apply for this form of education
- Simple, digital knowledge sharing for all students and coaches of Agora Roermond

