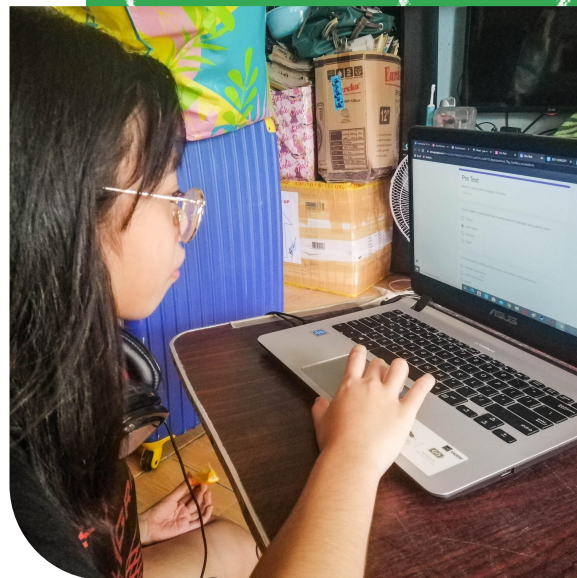


DepEd Mandaluyong empowers teachers to build future-ready learners and educators through Google Workspace for Education Plus



School at a glance

The Department of Education Schools Division Office of Mandaluyong (DepEd Mandaluyong) comprises 24 schools, spread over the two districts of Mandaluyong City in the Philippines. With over 2,000 teachers and 59,000 K–12 students, DepEd Mandaluyong is committed to providing education that is accessible, equitable, and liberating.

Background

In 2016, several schools in the division took the initiative to adopt [Google Workspace for Education Fundamentals](#) to promote blended learning. [Google Classroom](#) became one of the tools teachers frequently used to share reading materials with their students.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, DepEd Mandaluyong deployed [Google Workspace for Education Plus](#) as the standard platform across all schools in both districts of Mandaluyong. “The faculty found an opportunity to ease the transition to online learning through Google for Education tools, due to their usability and comprehensiveness,” said John Darryll Mercado, Information Technology Officer at DepEd Mandaluyong.



Challenge

Teachers’ differing paces on technology adoption emerged as a challenge during the early phase of the pandemic. Some struggled to adjust to the abrupt shift to online learning because it demanded existing digital skills. “The level of adaptability was different for each teacher,” said Charles Emmanuel Isidro, a Computer Teacher at City of Mandaluyong Science High School (CMSHS), one of the schools in the DepEd Mandaluyong Division that was among the first to migrate to Google Workspace for Education Plus. “There were some who could not adapt easily since they were not as familiar with using technology,”

Another difficulty that teachers faced was managing school resources. As only one administrator was in charge, it would take them a while to access files from other members of the faculty. In the case of CMSHS, there was no centralized platform that teachers could easily share resources on.

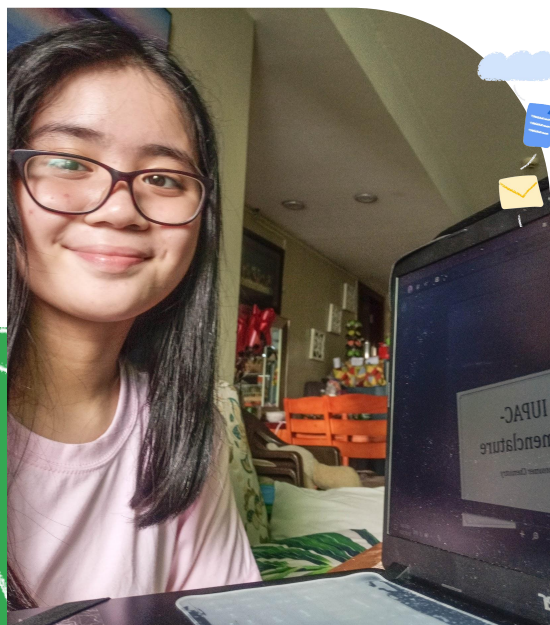
Beyond improving teaching and administration during the pandemic, DepEd Mandaluyong was also steadfast in equipping students with 21st-century skills like problem-solving, collaboration, and digital literacy. “To prepare students for the future, we needed to invest in upskilling them for the workplace,” said Mercado.

Solution

With Google Workspace for Education Plus, the role of teachers has evolved from being providers of knowledge to becoming catalysts for change in their schools to prepare learners for the future.

Cultivating a spirit of adaptability

To help teachers adapt better to the changes brought about by the pandemic, DepEd Mandaluyong encouraged teachers to take [Google for Education certification courses](#) to develop their digital skills. After these courses, teachers “could quickly navigate Google Workspace for Education,” said Isidro. “They found the tools easy to use, convenient, and reliable. We’re glad that we can now submit reports and give tasks to students online through the platform.”



The role of educators as catalysts for change goes beyond boosting one's own adaptability. The faculty realized the importance of supporting one another in active learning, and recognized the need to work together in improving their learning capabilities and discovering the potential of technology.

“We hosted demo sessions over [Google Meet](#), which can [accommodate up to 500 participants](#), to help teachers struggling to navigate Google Classroom,” said Isidro. As a result, those who were initially hesitant to teach virtually are now actively showing up as competent and tech-savvy educators, ready to help other educators.

Enabling teachers to co-manage

After upgrading to Google Workspace for Education Plus, teachers became more active in the administration and maintenance of learning systems. “The primary benefit of using Google Workspace for Education is its availability and reliability,” said Roderick Mendiola, the principal of CMSHS. “It also helps us streamline administrative processes like [document approvals](#), wherein reviewers can approve, reject, or leave feedback,”



With Google Workspace for Education, we gained confidence in technology like never before. It stretched our potential to become a driving force of change in education.”

Roderick Mendiola,
Principal,
City of Mandaluyong Science High School





It also provides the teachers the opportunity to contribute to the management of assets and to co-manage the accounts of both teachers and learners from one centralized control panel. “Finding and organizing shared resources is now easier than ever with Education Plus’ [Cloud Search](#) feature,” said Mercado.

Promoting future-oriented learning

Google Meet’s breakout rooms, polling, and Q&A functions, as well as Google Classroom’s ability to vet the originality and sources of student reports, have helped educators prepare students for their future in the workforce. Through these applications, students have developed new skills in independent learning, digital literacy, and computational thinking. “When given a challenge or activity, they already know which tools to use to solve certain problems,” said Mercado.

Summary

With the support of Google for Education, teachers in DepEd Mandaluyong have now become more comfortable with using technology to drive improvements in teaching and learning environments. The community of teachers is now equipped for digital learning and increased collaboration to prepare students for the classrooms and workspaces of tomorrow.



Google Workspace for Education opened a lot of opportunities for me as a teacher, and made me want to push my students to use it for enhanced learning.”

Charles Emmanuel Isidro,
Computer Teacher, City of Mandaluyong Science High School



Explore how Google for Education helps educators see school in a new light at edu.google.com/new-school