

Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township



In 2008, the Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township (MSD Wayne) Indianapolis, Indiana formed a “TechVision Committee” of administrators and teachers to support the economically diverse community and make sure all students had equal access to technology. This was the beginning of the district’s move to embrace new technologies. In the fall of 2014, the school went further and launched Chromebooks and G Suite for Education with the goal of bolstering student engagement and improving graduation and literacy rates throughout the district. These changes have created a culture where teachers, administrators, and students are all encouraged to question long-held assumptions about education in order to improve overall learning.

District facts

Public school district

Total district enrollment

15,874 **1,051**

Students

Teachers

Grades served

Pre-K > 12

Number of schools

19 

- 3 High schools
- 1 9th grade center
- 2 7th and 8th grade schools
- 11 Elementary schools
- 2 Preschools

Google tools

14,355 Chromebooks

4 Years using Chromebooks

5 Years using G Suite for Education

Free/reduced price lunch



76% of students qualify

G Suite for Education saturation



Students begin using Google Drive, Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides, and Google Classroom in 2nd grade

Students start using Gmail and Google Sites in 7th grade

Students begin using Google Calendar in 9th grade

Why Chromebooks

- The district graduation rate improved from 67% to 88.1%
- Seniors use G Suite for Education and Chromebooks for their own self-directed learning courses
- CASE (Classroom, Access, Skills, Environment) scores measurably increased after Chromebook adoption

Results

Wayne Township launched Chromebooks and G Suite for Education to help students develop skills for the economy of the future. Five years later, the school's CASE score (Classroom, Access, Skills, Environment) is up from 987 to 1006. Over the

past three years, the graduation rate rose from an average of 67% to 88.1%. Also, Indiana's measure of the third grade reading skills, READ-3, grew by ten points to 86% for the 2014–2015 school year.



88.1%

district graduation rate,
an **increase of 21.1%** over the past 3 years



86%

score on the IREAD-3, an **increase of 10%**
in three school years

Everyone on the same page

MSD Wayne began tracking their CASE score (a measurement of the impact of technology on learning) to keep tabs on their own progress in classroom engagement and teaching future skills. With Google Sheets and Google Docs, educators were able to track the progress of their students in real-time and then share their progress, so everyone who cared about a particular student could be on the same page.

Teachers no longer needed to enter data in gradebooks. Instead, they used Sheets to keep track of student scores. All the educators can view scores, identify trends, and add comments, all to make better decisions for individual students. Together, teachers and students look at the data and make personalized learning decisions that help students build skills that will serve them in the future.

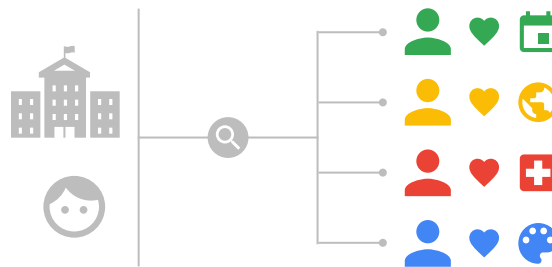
“With differentiated instruction, we’ve moved from a model where the teacher is standing at the front of the class to one where the teacher is in the middle of the room. Teachers are no longer forced to teach to the middle.”

Pete Just, Chief Technology Officer of MSD Wayne

Following passions outside of school

MSD Wayne launched a capstone experience program for Seniors in the 2015–2016 school year. Students have the opportunity to explore what they are passionate about in a self-directed course. They get the flexibility and time to pursue projects in their communities, in disciplines ranging from the arts, cultural studies, and event planning to internships at local hospitals. One student spent time observing a local surgeon (even during surgery) and another created a board game that was accepted for production.

G Suite for Education and Chromebooks allow online collaboration and communication that help make capstone possible. Students can share their experiences and work from wherever they are, so they can be involved at school while participating in their communities. Using G Suite for Education, teachers guide learning without needing to be in the same physical location as their students. Pete Just reports that “G Suite for Education is a tool, but it’s also an amplifier of instruction.”



Questioning the status quo

At Ben Davis High School, the largest public school in Indiana, teachers participate in a professional development cohort using Google tools that meets two days a week for three academic quarters each year. Common topics include genius hour, using Chromebooks in the classroom, project-based learning, personalization, and standards-based grading. Cohort members deliver presentations to their colleagues called Ed Talks. These talks are recorded, so that all teachers across the district can learn from their colleagues. Since the cohorts don’t meet everyday, they rely on different Google Apps to stay connected the rest of the week.

This blended learning model for professional development inspires a culture supportive of personalized learning for students throughout the district. MSD Wayne leaders believe technology can impact creativity, helping students, teachers, and administrators think in new ways outside of their routines. Administrators are moved to question and ask “why” more often. In turn, this encourages the same positive questioning from teachers and students.

Conclusion

MSD Wayne embraced G Suite for Education and Chromebooks as part of a technological push to increase student engagement and graduation rates. Along the way, students were given more

ownership of their educations, allowing them to pursue more of the things they love while getting a more advanced education.



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