



قودوا
Q U D W A

QUDWA 2017

EXPERT MASTERCLASS

Teaching Training: Making the Most of Google Tools and Programs

Sunday October 8th, 2017

Speakers

Heather Roy, Technology Teaching and Learning Coach, American School of Dubai, Certified Trainer, Google, UAE

Rania Hadi, MENA Education Regional Lead, Google

Summary Paragraph/Key Points

This session presented an overview of Google's Professional Development Programs, as well as some of the classroom tools designed to enable educators with the best strategies for integrating Google into the classroom.

"We are currently preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist, using technologies that haven't been invented, in order to solve problems we don't even know are problems yet." Richard Riley, Former US Secretary of Education.

Hadi claims that this is the premise upon which the Google for Education solution was built - Google want to be able to facilitate the process of learning anywhere and on any budget.

"Google for Education is a system that allows peers to collaborate with one another, students to share with their students and for parents to join in and interact", says Hadi.





قودوا
Q U D W A

One of those devices is the Chromebook: a lightweight, durable laptop, designed for students to share. The laptops boot up in less than ten seconds, and the battery lasts all day. They are designed to be simple, affordable, secure and shareable. Extremely useful in the classroom setting, each student can log on to their own personalized homepage, and then log out again so that the same Chromebook can be shared amongst peers.

Hadi also presented **G Suite for Education;** a productivity set of tools that can be used in a variety of settings. The foundation upon which they are all built is that you should be able to access all of your information no matter where you are on any device. The difference with G Suite from other online storage mechanisms is that everyone can access each document, even if someone else is updating it in real time.

“We launched Google for Education because teachers are bombarded by technology: tools and various resources that should help them, but which can often hinder them,” explains Hadi. “These tools were designed to create a collaborative environment, enabling teachers to be able to work online with their students and track work.”

The effect has been transformative.

“By allowing students to submit their work with Classroom, I can keep track of my sections, view grades easily, and mark assignments during any free time I have, without having to carry stacks of paper around. Classroom has made this process so easy and convenient.” Laura Barton, Science Teacher, Fontbonne Hall Academy.

In addition to all of this, G Suite is free for educational institutions because Google want to remove the barriers that may exist in schools with regard to adoption of technology. These tools can be accessed from anywhere, any device and everyone can collaborate in real time.

Google for Education has had a huge global impact. In 2016, Chromebooks were the no.1 selling device in Sweden and they are about to become the no.1 selling device in New Zealand. They are also becoming adopted in the UK, the US, Mexico and Brazil. Quoting a study undertaken by Evergreen Education Group, the Google team have further evidence of success stories from specific schools across the globe.

“Educator professional development is key. We want to ensure that educators are well equipped for the classroom,” says Hadi.

Heather Roy recommends the Google for Education: Training Center, which comprises free online modules that teachers can practice in their classrooms. There are 70 lessons available to educators in at least 20 different languages. To date, 625k teachers have trained with Google.

There are specific programs available for people who would like to integrate at different levels:





قودة
Q U D W A

- The Google Certified Trainer Program is designed to support educators to redefine teaching and learning with technology, and enables teachers to be recognized as trainers and gain certification for their skills.
- The Google Certified Innovator Program is for those who have a passion or an innovative idea, to develop new solutions to the world's toughest education challenges.
- Google Educator Groups (GEGs) exists on Google Plus for educators to share knowledge, lesson plans, tips and tricks on how to use technology in the classroom. There is also a global network enabling schools to connect; currently there are around 280 across the world using this resource.
- The Google Transformation Center is a hub of resources providing best practices and blueprints for how to introduce technology in the classroom, and is available to access online.

Roy develops workflows and strategies to enable teachers to practise their methodologies, and even encourages teachers to work together and support each other.

“Modern pedagogy is supported through Google tools,” states Roy. “Teachers need to be able to use technology in this way to support education and learning. By its very nature of collaboration and its ability to innovate, it provides very powerful learning opportunities. The sharing is the power of Google tools. I can define who can edit, view and share my documents – perhaps my team can be working on a living, breathing document whilst the only version that parents see at any point is the final version, at every stage of the update.”

Teachers can embed videos, photos, files and links enabling students to work interactively with the document, at their own pace. For example, a student could watch a video online, and then fill in a comprehension check via a Google Form. This can also be set up as a quiz, so that the answers can be sent back to the student. There are multiple ways in which a teacher can access the data.

“If a student needs more scaffolding or support, I can send additional links to that student, and help guide them through the learning process. I can effectively work my way around the class but in an online environment,” shares Roy. “Google Sites enables a student to create a portfolio of their learning by combining all their documents and files. The beauty of Google Classroom means that I can distribute individual copies of a Google Doc to each student, and then we have the power to review these documents. I can make suggestions, direct them, add assessment scales or rubrics, and then share these documents backwards and forth.”

For any additional training, Hadi recommends that teachers go to the online training center for a “concrete baseline” of how to use the tools, as there are many more. For example, she references Google Expeditions: a virtual reality kit, to enable students to interact and conduct virtual field trips.





قودوا
Q U D W A

She also recommends joining an online community who share similar interests, so that you can explore and ask questions.

Professional development training partners are also available to conduct training in schools.

MAIN TAKEAWAY: Google supports the teaching of today and tomorrow with a suite of tools and technology, to make teaching and student interaction easier and inspiring.

