Reflection: Google Classroom  
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Description:

Last year our district became a Google Apps for Education district. Around springtime, it was finally rolled out at the intermediate and elementary buildings levels. For the last month and a half of school, I had the opportunity to teach my students about Google Docs and Drive. Over the summer, Google released a platform called Google Classroom. This provides a teacher the opportunity to create a class that his or her students can join. Once in the classroom students can read the teacher’s announcement and complete assignments that the teacher has posted. The teacher can create a document in his or her drive and then post it onto the classroom page. Students then click on the assignment and it is automatically saved in the student’s drive as well as shared with the teacher in their drive.

Students can then complete the assignment. When they are finished, they can submit the assignment and the teacher will know the student is complete. Google Classroom allows a teacher to create a template and then each student can change it and add to it in the way they need to. Instead of students having to copy the document and a teacher worrying a student will alter the document, Google Classroom is a great solution.

Intent:

For the past month and a half, I have been using Google Classroom with my fourth grade students. Not only am I using Google Docs in a completely new way and enjoying it, my students are too. In Classroom students not only submit assignments but I can post announcements and we can have discussions in an area called the Stream. We can continue our classroom discussion when we leave school and students can pose a question that their peers can answer.
Google Classroom allows me to create a worksheet that the students can complete. I do not have to worry about my Drive being cluttered because each assignment is put into its own folder in my Drive and every assignment is automatically titled with my students’ names. It also gives me the templates of my worksheets or activities and it is put into my Drive in a separate folder.

This program has allowed me to take Google Docs to a new level. I have created worksheets and created a table so students know where they need to write their answer. In addition, I am notified as to who turns in an assignment, which helps me know that they are done. Prior to Google Classroom, I would often read a student’s writing and grade it; only to find out they were not done. This alleviates that problem for me now.

**Impact:**

As a result of learning about Google Classroom and implementing it into my room, I will continue to think of innovative ways to use it. Our classroom recently became a one-to-one class so my hope is that I can begin to move away from worksheets and go towards online learning environments as well as a paperless classroom. Google Classroom will allow me to share documents easily, which I know will motivate me to create more and try new things.

In addition, I plan to share Google Classroom with my colleagues. Yesterday at our Building Technology Instructor meeting, I shared the concept with everyone. Everyone in the room became excited and I believe it will open the doors to other teachers using Google Docs in the classroom. Many of the teachers are hesitant to use it since our students struggle with typing and often cannot share their document with us. Now, this will solve that problem. It is also very user friendly so I believe after more teachers see it, they will be willing to try it as well.