

Mexico City's Colegio Banting provides quality education for all students using Google Apps, Classroom and Chromebooks



At a Glance

About Colegio Banting:

- Founded in 1994 in Mexico City
- Private school serving 700 students, from preschool through 12th grade
- Opened with a goal to make quality education accessible to any student, no matter their background
- Google Apps for Education user since 2013
- Google Classroom user since 2014
- Google Chromebooks user since 2015

What they wanted to do:

- Incorporate technology into the entire learning process to motivate students while preparing them for future careers
- Increase student engagement in assignments and team projects
- Improve communication between students, teachers, parents and administrators
- Help teachers improve students' learning experiences and stay organized
- Enhance administrative and academic management processes to reduce costs and paper use

What they did:

- Introduced Google Apps for Education and Google Classroom to the school's 700 students, as well as 80 teachers and 20 administrators
- Purchased 20 Chromebooks for high school students

What they achieved:

- Trained students with modern technology tools
- Improved communication and collaboration among teachers, students and administrative teams
- Helped teachers and parents keep track of student work and progress
- Reduced costs and reduced paper usage by 70 percent

Background

Centro de Formación Escolar Banting, also known as Colegio Banting, consists of two schools in Coyoacán, Mexico City. Casa Banting serves preschool students up to five years old and Colegio Banting students range from kindergarten to 12th grade. Since the schools opened in 1994 with just 5 pupils, the Colegio Banting has grown to 700 students. Its student body represents a diversity of backgrounds, with many students from lower and middle income families. Founded with the mission to "ensure a comprehensive learning experience," Colegio Banting aims to "prepare students to meet the demands and opportunities of the 21st century," in part through a strong emphasis on incorporating technology into learning.

Challenge

Colegio Banting faced the challenge of preparing students from all walks of life -- many lacking the means to pay for an education -- to compete for entry into the best universities in the world. Prior to adopting Google Apps in 2013, Colegio Banting had no formal IT system or department. Students didn't even have email, and their teachers couldn't reach them outside of school hours. Faculty and staff were using their personal email addresses. And because of the decentralized system, communication between the preschool and K-12 school was limited.

They set out to find affordable, high-quality, easy-to-use devices and collaborative tools that students could use both on campus and at home. They needed a single platform that would allow students, teachers, parents and administrators to easily access shared information. In doing so, they would improve students' access to learning and help familiarize them with technology, even if they didn't have access to a computer at home. They also needed a solution that they could easily install and maintain with a minimal amount of IT management, and that students could navigate despite limited prior exposure to technology.

Solutions

Colegio Banting decided to go with Google Apps for Education so that it could centralize lessons, assignments and announcements in one online environment, accessible from anywhere. In 2013, administrative staff began using free Gmail accounts, then decided to roll out Google Apps for Education to all teachers and students because of how well Google's services were already working.

"Before Google Apps, we didn't have any technology at the school to help the students. We were looking at [another solution] and it quickly became apparent that Google Apps was far more intuitive to use -- and it was free."
—David Medel Macías, principal at Colegio Banting.



“There was a ton of cost-savings of going with Google versus Microsoft so the decision was easy for us to make.”

In 2014, Colegio Banting began using Google Classroom as a virtual class to help students, teachers and parents keep track of homework assignments and announcements in a single dashboard. Students can look on the assignment page in Classroom to find all their work, and receive an email notification when a teacher has posted a new assignment. Teachers can also see how many students turned in their homework and easily grade assignments.

Also in 2014, Colegio Banting invested in 20 Chromebooks to better arm students with the tools they need to develop real-world skills. “It would be very easy for our school to require a laptop to enroll, as many other schools in Mexico do. However, we know many students cannot afford one,” Medel Macías says. The school plans to expand the Chromebook program with a device for every student by 2020.

Benefits

Transparency and collaboration

Google Classroom and Apps for Education offer a new level of information-sharing between students, parents, teachers and administrators. Colegio Banting now uses Drive as its central hub for all of the school’s information, including lunch menus, course descriptions and class materials shared in Sheets, Docs, Slides and other file types like videos and PDFs.

Students work more closely together than ever before with Apps. Students invite other students into Docs they are working on to get help. Students also go on Gmail and Hangouts to discuss class assignments and group projects as they simultaneously work on in Docs.

“Instead of meeting in person to complete our assignments, we just connect to our computer, share a document with everyone and start a Hangout,” says Sergio Carro Acosta, a third-year high school student.

Google Apps has also enabled teachers and administrators to better work together. “Implementing this type of technology was impossible to conceive before; it was only accessible to huge schools with greater infrastructure,” Medel Macías explains. “Now, I have a Hangout with the preschool principal all the time.”

About Google Apps for Education:

Google for Education provides open technologies to improve learning for everyone, anywhere. Solutions consist of affordable devices, innovative tools, and educational content designed for learning and built for the classroom.

Google Classroom is a teacher-focused application that brings together all the parts of Google Apps – including Google Drive, Google Docs, and Google Presentations – and helps teachers keep class projects organized and to communicate better with students.

Google Apps is a free suite of communication and collaboration tools for schools including email, calendar and documents accessible from any device, at any time.

Chromebooks — fast, secure, portable computers that allow students to collaborate and share their work. Devices start at \$249 and are easy to set up and manage.

Tablets with Google Play for Education — an affordable 1:1 tablet solution that you can set up and manage in minutes. Provide the right educational content by exploring thousands of teacher-approved apps, books and videos.

For more information and sign up, visit our [website: www.google.com/edu](http://www.google.com/edu)



Engagement and empowerment

Teachers have enriched their curricula and are empowered to integrate educational apps into their lesson plans, says Medel Macías. Students are more excited about learning and are performing better on standardized tests. This has improved students' prospects in attending top colleges; now 90 percent of students are admitted to one of their top three university choices, Medel Macías says.

"Using Google Apps, Classroom and Chromebooks is useful for the students' lives, both in and out of school," explains Rubén Gamboa Galicia, a sixth grade teacher. "We're giving them real-world training."

Organization and ease of management

Teachers say that using Apps saves nearly 20 percent of their time. Google Classroom helps teachers better manage their online courses, enhance their lessons with relevant videos, files, links and websites, and closely follow student progress. Classroom has replaced paper handouts and reduced paper use by 70 percent. Teachers, notified through Classroom when homework is completed, can see who did what and at what time.

Classroom and Chromebooks also help students keep their work organized. "Everything is in one place with Chromebooks; there's no need to search or open different programs," explains Mariana Jiménez, a third-year high school student. "Opening Google Chrome let's me find everything I need, such as accessing my applications and documents. As teachers upload activities information to the calendar, I only need to check the calendar to know which activities to complete and the corresponding due date. It's much easier and more practical for me."

Colegio Banting has maintained its technology solution with a limited IT budget and minimal time investment. The administrative control panel makes it possible to manage all devices and student activities, and to ensure that students are using technology responsibly, Medel Macías explains. Because of the great results Colegio Banting has seen with Google Apps, they plan to introduce more Chromebooks and new opportunities for technology-powered learning.