

KENSTON

At a Glance

DISTRICT DESCRIPTION

Kenston Local Schools is a 3,000 student public K-12 district in Chagrin Falls outside Cleveland, Ohio. Their switch to cloud-based software three years ago left them looking for a robust page layout program to replace Publisher.

FEATURES THEY LOVE

- **Cloud-based** - whether at school or home, students and teachers can design projects anywhere. No need for licensing, updating, or patching.
- **Intuitive Interface** - Students with a range of skills can easily use Lucidpress' drag-and-drop interface. More time creating content, less time formatting and navigating complex menus.
- **Google Integration** - Immediate authentication, seamless file sharing and collaboration.

Challenge

Andreas Johansson is the director of technology integration at Kenston Local Schools, a 3,000 student public K-12 district in Chagrin Falls outside Cleveland, Ohio. Three years ago, the district switched to Google Apps for Education and Andreas and his team quickly saw the benefits of cloud-based software. Students and faculty easily accessed and collaborated on documents and spreadsheets in real-time, but when tasked with designing newsletters, posters and other visual projects, Google Apps fell short.

As a result, Andreas saw a lot of his faculty still using outdated versions of Microsoft Publisher and Word for page layout assignments. In some elementary classrooms, students were making newsletters on a weekly basis and spending significant time formatting in Word to do so. Andreas needed to roll out an alternative design software but struggled to find an option. Adobe InDesign was far beyond his district's needs and too pricey. Apple Pages couldn't be used in the high school's PC labs. He didn't want to sink time and money into Publisher. "We wanted something that lives on the web but Google Drive didn't have an equivalent," he said.

Solution

After hitting several dead-ends, Andreas was excited to learn about Lucidpress and quickly saw it the 'missing link in Google Drive' for his district. Because Kenston teachers and students were accustomed to working in the cloud, switching to a web-based app for design was a painless transition. Lucidpress is fully integrated with Google Apps, so his teachers and students can authenticate immediately, without remembering another login and password. Additionally, with the Lucidpress EDU Premium account, teachers can assign and grade projects directly through Google Classroom. Accessing the software online puts students on an even playing field – all they need is an Internet connection to get to work. Regardless of where students access their work from – on a Chromebook at school or on a Mac at home – Andreas can be assured they are using the same version. Collaboration tools in Lucidpress eliminate the need for emailing files back and forth, making groupwork seamless. Thanks to the intuitive design of Lucidpress, adoption at Kenston Local Schools was quick and easy. "Anyone I show Lucidpress to just gets it immediately," he said.



Technology integration director Andreas found the missing link in Google Apps for Education when he discovered Lucidpress.

Thanks to its intuitive interface, students in his district can quickly produce professional newsletters, posters and presentations without the need for desktop software.

Results and Impact

STREAMLINED TRAINING & SUPPORT. Three years after their rollout, Andreas' technology team is happy to spend their time focused on facilitating technology-rich lessons rather than constantly updating and patching desktop software. As a result, Kenston's technology team has been able to specialize in training and supporting one tool as opposed to many different tools. "Our level of frustration has certainly decreased."

STUDENT PRODUCTIVITY. For younger students lacking experience in design, the templates in Lucidpress allow them to create professional looking work in a short amount of time. "Lucidpress is able to very quickly produce a result that is of a much higher caliber than any of the other tools," Andreas said. Comparatively to feature-heavy software like InDesign, the simple drag-and-drop interface of Lucidpress allows students to spend less time navigating complex menus and more time creating content.

INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM. In many Kenston classrooms, Lucidpress has helped redefine old projects. Instead of the standard tri-fold poster common in science fairs, students are using Lucidpress to make digital posters and displaying interactive presentations. "We don't design for print anymore," he said. "We just design for digital and publish straight from Lucidpress."