

11 Google Apps Updates You Might Have Missed This Summer



Google Classroom

The most requested feature of all has finally arrived in Google Classroom! Google Classroom now supports sharing with parents. You can now invite parents and guardians to subscribe to a daily or weekly summary of activities in your Google Classroom classes. The process for setting this up includes a few more steps than you might anticipate. You can read the full directions on this help page <https://goo.gl/v9bH2k>.

In the Google Classroom mobile apps you can now draw on, highlight, and write on top of students' Google Documents, PDFs, and Microsoft Word documents. The iOS version of the app will also let you type on top of a document. With both apps students can annotate items that teachers have shared in Google Classroom and teachers can annotate items that students have shared back to them.

You can now add topics labels to posts in your Google Classroom stream. This allows you to search and sort your stream by topic instead of date. Directions on how to use topics can be found on this help page <https://goo.gl/AhK1BO>.

The new Google Cast for Education Chrome app enables teachers and students share their screens over wireless networks. The app integrates with Google Classroom to make it easy for you to quickly share your screen to your students' Chromebooks or laptops and for them to share with you. See how it works by watching the video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07KFD5fGq_4

Google Forms

This summer Google made it easier than ever to have quizzes scored for you and to show students their scores. Now when you create a Google Form you can go into the Form settings and choose the quiz option. Within the quiz option you can choose to have your questions scored as students answer them. You can also choose to show students their scores as well as correct answers. Watch my video to learn how to use this new feature

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeYxo7qN48k>

Google Forms finally supports the use of images as answer choices. You can also use images as question prompts in Google Forms. Learn how to use this exciting feature in my video found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTPJo8yJj7o>

Google Sites

For years Google Sites has remained unchanged except for the addition of page-level permissions a few years ago. In June Google announced (<http://goo.gl/sXf1rG>) that a new version of Google Sites will be rolling out over the next year. The new version of Google Sites promises a new drag-and-drop editing platform, enhanced collaboration features, and new responsive design templates. Check with your domain administrator to find out when your school will have access to the new version of Google Sites. And don't worry, your existing sites will remain unchanged when the new Google Sites editor is rolled out.

Google Hangouts on Air

Starting on September 12th Google will no longer offer Hangouts on Air. Hangouts on Air will be replaced by YouTube Live. YouTube Live will let you create public, private, and unlisted broadcasts. Broadcasts will be automatically stored in your YouTube account. The most significant change for many users will be the removal of the Q&A feature that was in Google Hangouts on Air. Now to host a Q&A you will have to share Google Slides and use the Q&A feature integrated into the presenter mode in Google Slides.

Google Slides

Technically, these were late spring updates, but some folks may have been out of school already when Google released two handy updates to Slides. First, Google Slides now has a Q&A feature that lets your audience submit questions to you. Second, Google Slides now has a built-in laser pointer that you can use to call attention to parts of your slides. My video demonstrates how to use both of these features <https://youtu.be/afdlqhED8Xg>

You can now import charts made in Google Sheets and display them in your slides. You can also use and modify one of the new charts templates in Google Slides. My video here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SguyUEWkM80>) demonstrates how to use the new charts feature in Google Slides.

Android Apps on Chromebooks

In late May Google announced that Android apps can now be developed and published for use on Chromebooks. In June we saw the first Android apps appear on Chromebooks. The list of supported Chromebooks is small, but steadily growing. The list of supported devices can be seen at <https://goo.gl/gKAAOy>.