



At a Glance

DISTRICT DESCRIPTION

Arcadia Unified School District serves 9,600 K-12 students in the San Gabriel Valley of California. In 2014, the district started a three-year 1:1 Chromebook rollout and discovered Lucidpress through its own students.

FEATURES THEY LOVE

- **Google Integration** -
"The most powerful thing about Lucidpress is that it's a natural extension to Google Docs."
- **Low Barrier of Entry** -
Intuitive interface requires minimal training
- **Collaborative** -
Easily access, share and contribute within a classroom setting.
- **Increased Storage** -
Storage on free accounts couldn't keep up with the district's needs. Upgrading to EDU Premium meant less storage headaches.

Challenge

A 9,600-student K-12 public school district in Southern California, Arcadia Unified School District switched to Google Apps for Education in 2012. Two years later, they started a 1:1 Chromebook rollout, with in-classroom sets for grades K-5 and laptops to take home for every student grade six and higher. Scott Bramley, Arcadia's Director of Technology, has piloted technology in the district for 25 years and said the switch to Chromebooks was one of the easiest: "It just works and teachers love it." But shifting completely to the cloud meant that Arcadia students had to find alternatives to the desktop software the district had long supported. "We realized not having Microsoft Publisher on the Chromebooks was going to be an issue," said Greg Gazanian, Arcadia's assistant director of technology. Tasked to create newsletters, posters and other visual documents without desktop software, students turned to the web to find a solution.

Solution

Within a week of deploying Chromebooks, Arcadia's own students discovered Lucidpress – an intuitive, cloud-based design software. "When we looked at Lucidpress we thought, look, it does what Publisher does and it's in the cloud," Bramley said. "It solved our problem immediately." This student-centered method of finding new apps is indicative of a change Bramley has seen in educational technology the past few years. Instead of the technology department dictating what software to use, Bramley said Arcadia encourages students and teachers to find the resources that work for them and meet their needs. These days that often means web-based applications. "Of any technology or software we look at these days, a cloud-based option is preferable to anything else," Bramley said. Once Lucidpress caught on among students and staff, their free accounts could not keep up with the storage needs for a whole district. "We knew it was being used frequently based on how often we were running out of storage on the free account," Bramley said. With end-of-year open house events approaching, Arcadia needed additional storage to display student work from the school year. The district upgraded to Lucidpress' EDU Premium account, unlocking increased storage capacity as well as Google Classroom integration, additional teacher templates and full administrative control.



Arcadia students loved having a design tool right in their browser. Scott Bramley, Arcadia's Director of Technology, loved how easy it was to deploy across the district.

"It was so easy to install it to our management console in the domain and make it part of Google Drive so it pops up as an option for teachers."

Results and Impact

EASY DEPLOYMENT. As an IT director for a large school district, Bramley said the initial deployment of Lucidpress was one of his favorite parts. "It was so easy to install it to our management console in the domain and make it part of Google Drive so it pops up as an option for teachers."

DECREASED SUPPORT NEEDS. With desktop software, Bramley needed to send a technician to physically install the program on school devices. Once installed, support needs didn't end there. Technicians returned to school sites to troubleshoot and maintain software. In contrast, Bramley said Lucidpress requires essentially zero support from his department because it's cloud based. Training needs are minimal due to Lucidpress' intuitive interface and low barrier of entry. "Having a cloud based solution has saved us dozens of hours in support time since we started using it," said Greg Gazanian, assistant director of technology.

SATISFIED STUDENTS & STAFF. Students discovered Lucidpress on their own and maxed out storage space creating professional projects straight from their browsers. During Arcadia USD's second annual Innovation Summit – a one-day professional development event focused on technology – two Arcadia teachers presented on Lucidpress and the ways it unleashed creativity among their students.