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Vicki Davis:

Little things do matter. There's an amazing story about this with an air rifle and the Lewis and Clark expedition. I've been reading a book this weekend called *The Little Things* <http://amzn.to/2lzVwnB> by Andy Andrews. I'll tell you more about it at the end of the show, I'll be giving away copies of this book this week and I'll also tell you about a free curriculum that Andy Andrews is releasing for teachers and our students.

Kyle Taylor:

"We have saved almost half as much money on each classroom installation with our new setup."

Vicki Davis:

The Ten-minute Teacher podcast with Vicki Davis. Every week day you'll learn powerful practical ways to be a more remarkable teacher today.

VICKI: Kyle, [@kyletaylor13](https://twitter.com/kyletaylor13)

tell us a little bit about what you've done with this wonderful project.

KYLE: Well, I'm lucky enough to be part of a district that is rolling out a one-to-one device policy and we call it a personalized learning, not one-to-one. So I'm going to be very clear about that. However, we have given iPads to every students in 2-4 and next year our 5th graders will join that group, middle schoolers as well and our high schoolers have Macbook Airls.

So these devices came to us without a lot of content on them and without a lot of structure around how we were going to use them.

VICKI: But you implemented Google Classroom so you actually got iPads, you got Macbook Airls but you're implementing Google Classroom so this is really interesting.

KYLE: Yes. So, we have combination. We have laptops in the building and we took all of our Chromebooks and out laptops and we sent them up to the 5th grade because they have not yet received their devices. But we wanted to have an overall plan that every student in the building could access the same content and every teacher could access the same content portal to deliver that content to our students. So our teachers move from 2nd grade to 4th grade to 3rd grade almost on a yearly basis sometimes.

We didn't want to have them learn an entirely new system every time that happened.

VICKI: Okay. So what system are you using? Tell us.

KYLE: So we used Google Classroom <https://classroom.google.com> to deliver digital content that the teachers create and the students receive on their device. It does not matter which device they're using as all. And we this partially because you want to prepare them for the same environment they're going to get in middle school, but we also did this because at my building, thought we should reimagine what the optimal learning environment in a classroom looks like because we felt that a one-to-one device and a personalized learning initiative should change what the optimal classroom looks like and feels like.

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VICKI: Okay. Now, there's so many people, especially technology people who are sitting here going, okay Apple and the Google Classroom, how do they play together?

KYLE: So any of the Google apps – and I will say we own domain in Arlington which means we've purchased a full Google Apps for Education Suite (*Producer's note: now called Gsuite* - <https://support.google.com/a/answer/139019?hl=en>) and we own our own domain, it sits in the hard drives of the high school. So we have no privacy issues with data or anything like that. But what really helped us was the fact that we could do the same thing on a PC laptops that we could with the iPad, that we could with the Chromebooks. We wanted to provide our students with a single platform for receiving digital content that transferred with them as they grew with us.

So when we looked at it, it was a pretty narrow list of things that will allow us to do that on all the platforms. But my principal come to me over the summer – and I work over the summer time so we have a lot of time then to really plan big rollouts like that. She said, "My teachers are creating the content on their computers. The kids, have now, computers on their desks. We did not see the need for a SMART board to be inserted in the middle of that instruction. So we want to take out digital instruction pivot point and switch it around from the one teacher, one student at the board and the rest of the class watching that student interact with the digital content to a model where all 25 kids in the classroom interact with either the same or differentiated materials at their desks at the same time.

VICKI: Okay, Kyle. Pretend I'm at your school and you're showing me a classroom. I want you to give me a verbal tour of what I would see happening in a classroom in this environment. And give me a grade level.

KYLE: Perfect. So let's just say we walk into a 2nd grade classroom. These are my teachers that have had devices in their room for three years so they're fairly comfortable.

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But it is the grade level at which the students receive their devices. So I do a lot of instruction with this group and that's why I'm using it as an example. If you come in during math time, we will have our teachers create their content and send it to their students through Google Classroom. We do a lot of screencasting where the teacher will hold up the material the students are working on, the physical piece of paper,

and they'll capture a screenshot of it. And then the teacher's video and their hand and their pen can go over exactly what the students are going to do.

So the students who are – say you've got four different groups and they rotate through their stations. One station involves Google Classroom and receiving a video that your teacher created about the content you're working on. When they rotate, they go to a simply different Google classroom assignment. So instead of standing up and physically moving the student to the new station, our students just go to a different Google Classroom assignment. One of those stations is one-on-one with the teacher which is why the teacher can't be with all the rest of the students right now.

So we'll have some students working on a teacher-created video, we'll have some students doing an expansion activity, we use XtraMath <https://xtramath.org/#/home/index> which is an iPad app, you can also access it on the website. And then the third would be direct instruction with the teacher. So they'll pull three or four students and just old school teacher. And what we found Google Classroom allows to happen is – we use the term cloning yourself because that teacher can then be in 25 locations at ones but still be providing personal instruction to the students.

VICKI: Okay. So I'm curious. I'm not crazy about the word delivering or giving, but are the kids creating anything? Are they putting anything in a Google Classroom or is it just all the teachers creating for the kids?

KYLE: So our teachers do several things with Google Classroom and content delivery is one of them. However, it will also allow the kids to create on their iPads. And I will say the creation piece is why my district chose iPads over laptops or Chromebooks or anything else.

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And so anything that we can get from any app to the camera role can be turned in through Google Classroom. So any content that the kids create, whether they go out and shoot a movie instead of writing an essay – I will say 2nd grade, that's probably not what we're doing with them. But if they're going to go out and do audio recordings, our music class has them record their favorite instruments, they can take those, turn them in to the teacher digitally and tell the teacher that they're done. But the teachers can also give them comments, send it back and say, "Oh, I need you to do more on this part of the work." The student can then pull their work back from the teacher in Google Classroom, fix it and resubmit it to the teacher without ever actually having to talk to the teacher.

VICKI: Okay. Kyle, some teachers are listening to this thinking, okay, this is too different, it's overwhelming, I just need to retire. How hard is this implementation?

KYLE: It really depends on your situation. However, I will say I have multiple teachers in my building who are within a year or two away from retirement and even they have told me because I can; A, take lessons that might – we have about six classes worth

of every grade level in building, so we're a very big school. We often have grade level lessons that have to be delivered during certain times. Now, with Google Classroom, only, one lessons has to be created by a teacher and they can share it with the rest of our teachers and then they can just post that lessons.

So there's a buy-in piece that I get, especially with older teachers where I can show them how to use other people's work but also show that I'm going to go reuse their work quickly. So the same lesson you teach every year on concept development, all you need to do is go in and repost your lessons from last year and all your content is still there. <https://medium.com/@kylegavintaylor/google-classroom-26e72f5e6d78#.retfqniiu>

VICKI: Fantastic. So, Kyle, we'll put links in. I know you'll send us information for all this.

KYLE: Yes.

VICKI: Could you give us a 20 second elevator pitch for why teachers at school need a consistent platform for everything?

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KYLE: Absolutely. So our students learn through muscle memory. When I teach computer skills and how to navigate things on the computer, I no longer tell them to go to the bottom right-hand corner and click the box that says this. And what we find is when our students progress from second grade – I mean, these kids are going to be using the same device through 8th grade and then they're going to get a computer. But they're still going to be working within the Google Classroom environment.

So you don't have to ever teach those skills again. And you get a uniform area for our students to deliver their knowledge back to the teacher as well as receive it from them.

VICKI DAVIS @COOLCATTEACHER

VICKI: Well, it just makes so much sense to have a school wide – you're kind of using it like a learning management system or platform?

KYLE: They call it a CMS or a classroom management system. Part of this has been financially driven. We have saved almost half as much money on each classroom installation with our new setup. We're not getting rid of projectors, we're installing either big screen TVs or ceiling-mounted projectors, but we're getting rid of the smartboard because we have touchscreens on our desks. What used to cost me about \$4,000 to \$5,000 per classroom to set up an optimal learning environment now cost me less than \$2,000.

VICKI: Wow.

KYLE: And we have full interactive Apple televisions, 75-inch television screens mounted on walls.

VICKI: Kyle has given us a lunch point to really discuss, what do we want to do school-wide with a classroom management system or a learning management system and just transition from classroom to classroom. We have so much to think about today and it surely is wonderful when you can collaborate between classes.

So my book of the week this week is *The Little Things* by Andy Andrews. I'm giving away five copies of the book. Just head over to iTunes or Stitcher to be entered to win and leave a review along with your twitter or Instagram handle. Also, head over to his website at andyandrews.com/media-education to take a look at all the really cool free curriculum that he has there for you. Now, get out there and be remarkable.

Thank you for listening to the Ten-minute Teacher Podcast. You can download the show notes and see the archive at coolcatteacher.com/podcast. Never stop learning [End of Audio 0:10:12]

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