Google for Education

About Brooklyn Prospect Charter
• Public K-12 Charter School
• Serves approximately 1000 students
• Located in Brooklyn, New York
• **Website** [link to http://www.brooklynprospect.org]

What they wanted to do
• Provide BYOD-friendly technology for students and teachers
• Use technology to inspire students to take control of their learning

What they did
• Introduced **Chromebooks**, **Google Classroom,** and **Google Apps for Education**
• Trained faculty and staff to use Google Apps exclusively

What they accomplished
• Gave teachers and students access to their work and resources anytime, anywhere
• Helped students organize and manage their assignments
• Inspired students to explore global and social issues outside the classroom

Brooklyn Prospect Charter School students tackle global issues with Google for Education tools

Organization
Brooklyn Prospect is nestled in New York City's bustling, diverse Brooklyn borough and is home to approximately 100 students from grades K-12, and 200 teachers and staff. An International Baccalaureate World School, the school's curriculum has a strong focus on developing in students' creativity and international lens. Its mission is to prepare students to "become global citizens" by challenging them with project-based learning that centers on problem solving through critical thinking.

Challenge
Brooklyn Prospect needed a way to give its socially conscious student body access to the internet and the cloud to research and collaborate on global issues. For their high school students, the technology-forward school has a bring-your-own-device (BYOD) program, allowing students to use whatever device works best for them. As a result, school IT officials were looking for a technology solution that worked across different devices. The faculty also wanted to provide teachers with more resources that would help them better prepare students for professional careers.

"We had strong faculty buy-in. Teachers and staff have been using Gmail since day one and actively use Google Apps for Education to share information and collaborate."
— Tyra Frederick, educational technology instructor and high school English teacher at Brooklyn Prospect Charter
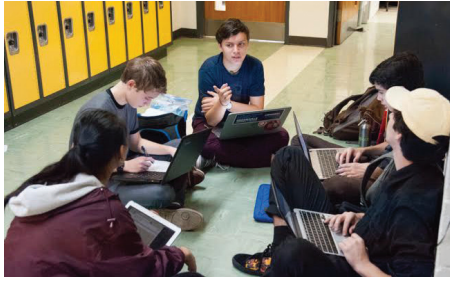
Solution
Brooklyn Prospect Charter schools rolled out **Google Apps for Education** for all students and teachers over a period of one year, including **Chromebooks** in 2013 and **Classroom** in 2014. Nearly every classroom in the middle school now has it's own Chromebook carts, and 100 percent of students and staff use Google Apps everyday. "We had strong faculty buy-in. Teachers and staff have been using Gmail since day one and actively use Google Apps for Education to share information and collaborate," says Tyra Frederick, educational technology coordinator and high school English teacher at Brooklyn Prospect Charter. While high school students are allowed to bring their own devices, they have the option of using Chromebooks in the classroom as well.

Benefits
Providing students and teachers with a BYOD-friendly way to work
Google Apps for Education and Classroom make it easy for students to use any device — whether it's a Chromebook, an iPad, or their computer at home. "This becomes even more important for our teachers and 11th and 12th graders who participate in our BYOD program," Frederick says. "With Google Apps, all they need to do is save their work in Drive and they can access it from any device."

Google for Education
A solution built for learning and designed for the classroom that includes easy-to-manage affordable devices like Chromebooks and tablets, a "mission control" for class through Google Classroom, a powerful suite of productivity tools with Google Apps for Education, and new ways to engage students like Google Expeditions. Together these tools help teachers save time, increase collaboration, and inspire curiosity while students discover and learn together on any device, from anywhere.

Teachers at Brooklyn Prospect use Classroom to hold professional development workshops in the cloud. Workshop moderators save learning material in Classroom and teachers can access the information from any device, anytime — even while at home or commuting. Oftentimes, workshop moderators share additional resources, such as articles or online videos, with attendees via Classroom after the workshop has ended, providing attendees with an online forum where they can continue learning about and discussing the topic.

Inspiring globally conscious student projects
Teachers at Brooklyn Prospect use Google Apps for Education and Classroom to bring the school's international curriculum to life. Classroom is used by teachers to hold lively discussions and debates about current issues. For example, one teacher recently shared an article about the conflict in the Middle East via Classroom, and students promptly shared their reactions in comments within the discussion forum. Within Classroom, teachers can easily monitor and moderate any debates or discussions to keep students focused and on topic.

"Students are excited by technology," says Frederick. "They go above and beyond to find creative ways to use Google Apps in their projects." For example, one Brooklyn Prospect Charter high school student created a collage protesting police brutality and calling for "Peace on the Streets" using Google Slides. Another high school student used Google Forms to create a survey in which he asked his fellow students which global issues most concerned them. Forms automatically populated a Google Sheet with all responses, making it easy for the student to consolidate and share the feedback with others. Based on the findings, the student composed a musical protest album to raise awareness for the top issues.

Empowering students to take ownership over their education
Google Apps for Education enables students to take the initiative to request feedback from faculty advisors and proactively set appointments to meet with them. As part of the International Baccalaureate program, 12th grade students conduct a year-long Extended Essay on a topic of their choice under the guidance of a faculty advisor. Students use Gmail, Calendar and Docs to arrange meetings with their advisors, provide status updates, and request regular feedback. Google Apps for Education makes it easy for students to stay organized and take ownership over both their project and their faculty advisor relationship.

Educational technology encourages students at Brooklyn Prospect Charter to think of new ways to address real world problems. Going above and beyond the norm, Aidan, a high school student, created an application to help his curious peers determine their final grade via a **calculator** that lets them toggle the weighted components of the final grade. Aidan used Google Drive to house and share the app with his peers.

Aidan says: "To create the midterm calculator, I wrote an HTML file with embedded CSS for stylistic features, and JavaScript, a programming language. In order to host the web page and share it with others, I uploaded it to Google Drive."

There are many things that make Brooklyn Prospect Charter a vastly unique school, from its diverse and socially conscious staff to the diverse student population. They're a shining example of how the right technology and faculty support can inspire students to expand their academic scope to address real issues that affect people in the world around them.