

Rocky View Schools Use MindMeister And G Suite for Education to Enable Easy Collaboration for Over 20,000 Users.

SUCCESS STORY



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WEBSITE

www.rockyview.ab.ca

- Facilitates collaboration and independent work of students
- Can be used on all devices
- G Suite integration enables seamless access for all users



MindMeister is very user friendly and easy to start using. My grade 3 students had it figured out in no time.

- **Jennifer Friske**, Elementary School Teacher



Rocky View Schools (RVS) is the fifth-largest school board in Alberta, Canada, and provides a top quality learning environment for 18,000 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. The district, which consists of 42 schools, has about 2,000 employees.

There are iPads, Google Chromebooks, Android tablets, Mac and windows laptops in addition to PCs which are owned by the schools. "That is why we prefer a cloud-based solution which is accessible from any device," says Scott Mahan, Learning Specialist for Technology. He was the driving



I am working on a multi-jurisdictional project with five school boards in Alberta. MindMeister has fostered a spirit of collaboration between the members of the project, as we are able to work together to brainstorm ideas, make plans and timelines, and share information.

- Nancy Lake, Program Specialist



force behind the switch from the old visual learning tool by Inspiration Software, Inc. to MindMeister, which was added to the schools' existing G Suite domain in 2013. The integration instantly enabled a seamless access to MindMeister for all users.

Scott closely monitored the usage statistics and gathered feedback from teachers participating in the evaluation phase. The biggest key for many of the teaching staff was how well the students responded. "I used MindMeister in Grade 7 and 8 social studies and found it a great tool to engage students," says middle school teacher, Donna Gray. "The students found it an effective program and it was great to see them independently begin to use it in other subjects."

Grade 1 and Kindergarten teacher Sarah-Faye MacGregor uses mind mapping mostly for "co-operative planning with colleagues". She states the biggest benefit as "being able to collaborate, post videos, pictures as well as text and having a web format".

Elementary classroom teacher Jennifer Friske explains "It is very user friendly, and easy to start using. My grade 3 students had it figured out in no time."

Overall, the teachers involved in the pilot found MindMeister extremely easy to use and were delighted at how simple it was for the students to learn. After the three month pilot the Associate Superintendent of Learning, Dave Morris, approved to extend the subscription to three years.