

Google Hangouts: Keeping Connected through Technology

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During the student teaching experience, many student teachers feel disconnected from the university (Bain, 1990)



- Some student teachers seem to have a hard time transitioning into their new “life”
- Student teaching is not as fun as they originally might have thought
- Student teachers feel like they are sometimes by themselves



Keeping Connected Through Technology...

- Aid student teachers as they are out in the field.
- Being able to connect with student teachers throughout the semester.
- Eliminate struggles that student teachers find themselves in.



So, what did we do?

- We began using *Google Hangouts* in the AEE 424/524 Program Planning in Agricultural Education class which coincides with student teaching.

Why??

- *Google Hangouts* is an interactive way for people to stay connected via the web. It allows people to send messages, photos, and make video calls.





http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_9tqbCCY6ueo/S8tqJXEJDOI/AAAAAAAAAyI/KNm9i0ohBAC/s1600/42wksSkypingWithDada.JPG





http://cdn.business2community.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/4h5Ptgfikq5mzZsZt0WOWyeFDRtGy9hQcjsITGi68p_jt5I3Pow7Tt-nqPxIlsIxWyPI6dl0dhtZlfU_T6CpgeXTa87C0rVkn9K9AHwgiJ4Z75YnpjjuPphGd.jpg



How to Sign-up for *Google Hangouts*

- Make sure you have a Google account
- Google Plus
- Select *Google Hangouts* to hold a video conference by following the simple instructions

How did we utilize *Google Hangouts?*

- We had students sign-up on a Google Excel Spreadsheet for one of the specific time slots (there could only be 8 people in one time slot) about a week in advance
- The class instructor would “call” them at their selected time and talk about their classroom experiences, student issues, struggles that they may be having, positive things that have worked in the class, etc.



Students' Perceptions of Google Hangouts

- Students met once a month on *Google Hangouts*
- Survey given using Google Forms at the end of the semester
- Given to students who were in the AEE 424/524 class at the end of the 2013 spring semester (N=19)



How easy is it to use *Google Hangouts?*

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Incredibly Easy- | 32% |
| Easy- | 32% |
| Indifferent- | 37% |



Does the 424/524 *Google Hangout* help address concerns or issues that you are seeing and experiencing while student teaching?

Yes- 89%

No- 11%



What do you find to be beneficial when using *Google Hangouts*?

- Seeing the faces of classmates
- Listening to different perspectives of my fellow teachers
- More in-depth conversations
- Ideas for teaching classes
- How to address problems
- Being able to speak freely



What would you like to see discussed in future 424/524 *Google Hangouts*? (for future reference)

- Tips for things to try in the classroom
- What student teachers are using as resources
- What works well in classes
- Classroom management
- Balancing (family, personal life, work, etc.)
- Stress-Relief



What is your overall impression when using *Google Hangouts* as a way of communication for this class?

“...I do know that getting a group of people together is extremely difficult in general and this is a great way to stop the lesson plans for thirty minutes and get the issues off our chest that we are all experiencing.”

“I like it better than anything else!! It’s easy and quick and answers/discusses questions.”



“I think it would be better if we had slightly smaller groups so that more people would talk.”

“I think it's a lot faster and easier than using forums or typing and allows us to answer each other's questions more efficiently.”

“I like it. However, there are still a few complications with students holding an internet connection and/or having microphone capabilities...”



Conclusions

- *Google Hangouts* works well when students are not able to come to campus
- Connecting with classmates makes students feel more at ease



Advice to Others

- Strong internet connection is needed
- Make sure students understand how *Google Hangouts* work
- Test it out with colleagues or family members



Other Uses for *Google Hangouts*

- Distance education courses
- Students responsible for forming own groups
- One-on-one appointment times with instructors
- Hold meetings with faculty



Any questions or
comments?!

Feel free to email me at
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