

# Using Google Hangouts for Classroom Video Conferencing

## AGENDA + NOTES

1. What is a Google Hangout?
2. What you will need first for a Hangout. You must have a Google account.
  - A. A Document Camera will work as both a webcam and microphone.
  - B. Join Google+ with your Google account.
  - C. You used to need to install the Google Plugin for Voice and Video. Not it is integrated into Gmail, Calendar and Google+.
  - D. USB Headsets work best for good audio, or you tend to get feedback.
  - E. Download the **Hangouts** app for iPhone, iPad or Android.
3. Look at different ways to do a Google Hangout:
  - A. A Hangout can be initiated from your Gmail Contacts list: Click “**Add a video call.**” Then, add one or more people. It shows up in your calendar and his/her calendar. Sends him/her an email.
  - B. Within **Google+**, click the **Home** button and go down to **Hangouts**.
  - C. **Sign In** at the right by clicking on the **Hangouts** button.
  - D. Click the green **Start a video Hangout** button.
  - E. Add people’s email addresses to invite them.
  - F. Within Gmail, click at the bottom left corner of your Gmail to display your Contacts. Click any contact’s video icon to initiate a Hangout.
  - G. You can also get to Hangouts by going to <https://plus.google.com/hangouts> and clicking the little **Hangouts** button (quotation bubble) in the top right corner to bring up your previous chat conversations.
  - H. At <https://plus.google.com/hangouts> you can also click on **Hangouts On Air** at the top and see the various Hangouts On Air that are broadcasted, or click **Video Hangouts** and click **Start** (your own) **Video Hangout**.
4. Look at the features & controls found inside of a Hangout.

-the tools auto-hide. Hover at the left to show them. One tool includes screen share. You do see the six tools at the top though.
5. Look at [Hangouts on Air](#), which can be scheduled at a predetermined date and time, and broadcast online for others to view. Takes you to a person’s YouTube Channel for an archive.
6. The social aspects of Google+ and **Communities**.
7. [Google Hangouts in Education](#) (on Google+). Needs approval. Ask for someone to do a Hangout with.

8. Integration Ideas for Science:
  - A. Show off an **Experiment**
  - B. Discuss and Chart the **Weather** over time from different areas. Kids love this.
  - C. Students hypothesizing and questioning experiments.
  - D. Show off a class pet, exotic animals from a local zoo that visit the classroom, as well as various other creatures.
  - E. A Photo Walk through your community, examining habitats.
9. Integration Ideas for Math:
  - A. Problem-solving activities with multiple classes.
  - B. Have older students show younger students how to solve a problem.
  - C. Classes share apps and software being used by the classes around the world.
  - D. Share math project sharing
  - E. A Quiz Bowl with another class.
10. Integration Ideas for ELA:
  - A. Virtual Book Club.
  - B. Book Talks with other classes.
  - C. Share Writing Samples with other classes.
  - D. Connect with Authors and Poets.
  - E. Compare characters from different stories with another class.
  - F. Collaborate with other classes on the same novel or story you're reading.
11. Integration Ideas for Social Studies:
  - A. Mapping and Geography skills.
  - B. Share Projects with other classrooms around the world.
  - C. Share and Compare about where you live (your school, city, state or country).
  - D. Have a quest to gain data for a research project about multiple countries.
  - E. Schedule a Mystery Hangout with another school and have the class guess where they are from.
12. Other Integration Ideas (Across the Curriculum):
  - A. Foreign Language Skill Practice (with students from another country who speak that language. Good practice).
  - B. Celebrate special events or holidays.
  - C. World Read-a-loud Day. High school students read to Elementary students.
  - D. Phys Ed classes interview an athlete or Olympian.
  - E. Interview experts in many fields and record this info to use in class later.
  - F. Conduct a Global Research Project with another class and report findings back to each other.
13. **The Mystery Hangout** is another Community you can join. [Here is the link.](#)  
Connect with another teacher in Google+ (Also look at other **Communities** to join for additional ideas).

14. Another great Google+ community to join is [Google Connected Classrooms](#).
    - A. You can explore past and upcoming field trips and bring the world into your classroom.
    - B. If you join (for free), you will get e-mails of upcoming international field trips.
    - C. The tour guides are from Seattle Aquarium, American Museum of Natural History, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and National Geographic, among others. Here is [a typical post](#) within the community.
  15. Using the **#eduhangout** hashtag: [Here is the link](#) to the site, or <https://plus.google.com/explore/eduhangout> on Google +.
  16. A great online resource from Andy Mann at Muskegon ISD: <http://chromebooksk12.wikispaces.com/Google+Hangouts>
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### Random Bonus Notes:

-REMC sells a \$7.09 headset with a single plug. **Item #152139** is a mic through REMC for \$ 7.09. Not USB. Single plug from Precision Data. Or, use your Recordex document camera as a webcam.

-The microphone from the loudest person is heard. The others should click their Mute button.

When making a Google Hangout call, your recipient's **phone** (if they are logged in to their Google account) **will ring first**, and then their computer.

-You can mute your webcam, which then shows your avatar.

-There is a **chat** feature. People joining late only see the last post in the chat.

-Chromebooks now support multiple monitors, so you can now use two monitors with Chromebooks, as you would with a typical laptop.

-Google App add-ons: the YouTube app lets you share YouTube channels.

-Another app is The **Toolbox** which puts your name in the bottom corner (known as **Lower Thirds**).

-There are various Special Effects, turned on at the left and they show up at the right. Click the left & right arrows to scroll through all of them. At the bottom is a button to turn the them off,

-You can't add special effects to the other person. Only to yourself. Let students get these out of their system when first using Hangouts.

- Remote Desktop has been phased out of Hangouts. You can now get it as a stand-alone app through the Google App Store.

**Best Practice:** always send a note through Google Hangouts so they know ahead of time that you are planning to meet online. Then, no one is surprised or broad-sided.

Recommended: a portable \$15 USB mic. Well worth the money and good quality.

-To update to the New Hangouts, click on it in your Email and get New Hangouts.

-Use Hangouts from within your email, not just the green Hangouts button.

Check out trainer Andy Mann's [YouTube Video Mashups](#) web page to get scripts for reader's theater and much more. Great session from MACUL.

-Kids love to present to an audience. This gives them the opportunity. Just don't let them record a Hangout on Air - for legal privacy reasons.

-For iPads, get an external microphone. For phones, get a small tripod. eBay or REMC are good places to find these.

To invite additional people during the call, 15 people max for GAFE (Google Apps for Education), 10 for personal. Hangouts on Air is different.

From within the Google + Community, click on Hangouts and you have two tabs up top. One is **Hangouts on Air**. By default, they are only watching. Pre-schedule it. By default, it is Public, but you can make it Private.

-Add people from your Google Plus Circles. Create a Community for your Parents or Admin. Building. Kids must be 13.

Within **Hangouts on Air** are the following:

**Q&A** button,

**Voting** button

**Applause** button. You can also customize the landing page.

-You can add a co-presenter in the Events page, through your YouTube Channel, and you can embed a recorded Hangout On Air into your Moodle page or blog. It could just be You doing a live one-person screencast (or recorded webinar).

-There are Chrome Extensions also in the Chrome Web Store for Hangouts.

**Note: Only 13 year olds or older can do Hangouts on Air** and (COPA Laws). They can't be a participant but they can watch.