

Acer Chromebooks for Education:

“It’s perfect for interactive teaching!”

Tellegen Primary School in Wijhe in the Netherlands has been using about 30 Acer Chromebooks since the start of the 2013/2014 school year. Both the teaching team and the students (11 and 12 year olds) have been using them, and the feedback is very enthusiastic. Before they were purchased, the options were extensively analysed, the contenders being tablets, laptops and Chromebooks. “It would have been easy just to go for a tablet,” says headmaster Fedor Baarslag. “But after we looked closely at everything and tried all the devices, the Chromebook was the clear winner.”

Tellegen Primary School is in competition with four other primary schools in the municipality. The school therefore wants to distinguish itself as being as progressive as possible, including in the IT field. “We were the first school in this area with digiboards and computers. In addition, we also try to lead the field in other areas,” headmaster Fedor Baarslag says. “We are in a Foundation with nine other schools, two of which have already purchased tablets and are using them in the classroom. It would have been easy to do the same thing, but that’s not the way we work. When we decide to do something, it must be well-founded and not simply based on what others do. It depends on the purpose for which something is purchased. That didn’t prevent us from immediately having a closer look at tablets, and I even tried out a tablet myself to see what it could do and how it could be incorporated into primary education.”

Fedor Baarslag was quickly confronted with some limitations: “There are also typing lessons at the school, because we think that this will help children in their careers later on. But that isn’t simple with a tablet. These things are not easy to type on, and if a keyboard has to be connected it implies an extra cost.”



Fedor Baarslag (left) and Hennie Fiet in front of one of the school's first multimedia tools: the traditional Dutch reading board

Requirements at a glance

“We eventually came into contact with a primary school in North Holland that uses Chromebooks,” said teacher Hennie Fiet in respect of the launch of the Chromebook project.

“We had listed a number of requirements regarding the devices to be purchased. They had to have a good screen, a battery that would last an entire day at school, a convenient keyboard, a connection for a mouse, a USB port, preferably an SD card slot, be suitable for PowerPoint and/or Prezi presentations, and there had to be good educational apps available aimed at classes of 11 and 12 year olds.”

Online and offline

Hennie Fiet actually bought an Acer Chromebook himself and extensively experimented with it over a period of two months: “Our school is connected to the internet via optical fibres and we have installed extra Wi-Fi routers, which means that fast internet is available everywhere in the building.

That is essential for Chromebooks, because most apps and data are in the cloud. A number of applications, such as educational games, word processors or presentation programs can also be run offline. When you go back online, the file is automatically moved from the internal memory to Google Drive in the cloud.”

The battery of a Chromebook lasts from 6 to 8 hours. “Perfect,” says Hennie. “And if the Chromebook crashes, you just grab another, log into your Google account and continue where you left off. I think it’s fantastic. Even more so because of the brilliant apps available for primary education.”



Good deal

“We came into contact with the company Zzapps, who provided us with a great quote for the supply of 30 Acer Chromebooks,” says Fedor Baarslag about the purchasing process.

“The quote included a complete plan for creating user accounts for teachers and students, selecting apps particularly suitable for us, etc. That all went very smoothly. When Acer Chromebooks were delivered, we could start using them straight away. After children finish here and are ready to go on to secondary school, they can buy a Chromebook for its market value. I think that many parents will take advantage of this, because children are very excited about it.”

Hennie Fiet concludes: “We use Chromebooks in language lessons for reading comprehension and spelling, but also for other subjects such as geography, history, and nature studies. It can be used to watch YouTube videos, communicate via email, surf the web, work on projects, and as a teacher I can easily log onto the Chromebook of a student through the management console.

This means we can work together on a project and I can keep an eye on students and check they aren’t clicking any ‘wrong’ websites. They have to save their browser history anyway, and if they accidentally erase it they have some explaining to do. That works very well. We certainly made the right choice with these Chromebooks.”



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