

# Case Study

## Lyford Cay International School

Lyford Cay International School Responds to 21st Century Demands for Interactive and Multimedia-Rich Classrooms with Studywiz Spark.

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### Lyford Cay International School

- Is a private institution, housing grades Nursery-12
- Progressed very quickly from its inception in [year], adopting a rigorous diploma and curriculum structure
- Provides a one-to-one (one laptop for each student) learning environment

### Studywiz Spark was appealing to Lyford Cay International School for four fundamental reasons.

The Dynamic LearnSpace is:

- Cost-effective
  - Easy to use
  - Easy to integrate with
  - Fully supported existing applications
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## Challenge

The 21st Century classroom paints quite a different picture than the stale and outdated textbook and lecture setting; it demands a collaborative and interactive environment and places a strong emphasis on the learning tools that are most engaging to today's students. Classrooms have evolved from lecture halls to education hubs that operate best when incorporating multimedia applications and devices to promote active engagement in learning.

To respond to the pressing demands of 21st Century learners, schools are faced with the challenge of creating an environment where students can be active participants in education. At Lyford Cay International School, located in the Bahamas, the concern was not only to find a way to adapt to the 21st Century learning environment, but also to implement a classroom management solution that would unify different technology applications in the one-to-one setting and allow teachers to create multimedia-rich content while keeping students actively engaged.

## Solution

Looking for a way to access today's popular multimedia applications and devices, Lyford Cay International School decided to build an entire technology platform from the ground up. They found, however, that with their platform they lacked the ability to connect and unify their existing technology applications. As such, they looked to an alternate option – Studywiz Spark, the first and only Dynamic LearnSpace for K-12 education.

“We knew a technology platform would best suit our needs for facilitating collaborative, multi-media rich classroom environments, but the open source solutions presented a technical challenge,” said Scott Gutowski, Chief Information Officer, Lyford Cay International School. “With Studywiz Spark, we quickly saw that we would not have to nurse the platform from a technical side, and we would be able to implement a cost-effective, easy-to-use solution, that has a company behind the product to aid the progress of the classroom.”

“Studywiz Spark had the key components we sought in a technology platform – cost-effective, easy to use, able to integrate with our existing applications and supported by a company that stands behind its product,” said Gutowski. “We brought Studywiz Spark in very aggressively, installing the system and populating it with content only a few weeks before the start of the school year. We were able to do this on such a short time frame only because Studywiz Spark could directly and completely integrate into our

existing infrastructure; we didn't have to recreate our digital identity. We constantly feel reassured on our investment, because Studywiz Spark provides the support that we need to allow our teachers, students and parents to extend learning beyond the classroom."

## Results

The most significant result that Lyford Cay International School has seen with Studywiz Spark has been the ability to extend learning – both in and out of the classroom. Studywiz Spark fosters an interactive and collaborative learning environment that enables teachers, students and parents to view and present multimedia content within a safe and secure learning platform. Studywiz Spark has allowed Lyford Cay International School to enhance education by providing the tools and capabilities – multimedia-rich content, mobility, parent access and collaboration – that are necessary to meet the demands of 21st Century learners, while simultaneously creating a bridge to connect the existing technology applications.

The impact of Studywiz Spark upon the one-to-one environment has been extremely positive.

"To engage my students, I have made a concerted effort to incorporate Studywiz Spark's applications into my daily teaching routine," said Robin Heelis, IB and MYP Mathematics Instructor, Lyford Cay International School. "Studywiz Spark allows me to supplement the content I teach with the features that my students find most interesting, like video clips, audio files and digital images. My students have shown such a strong interest in this approach to learning that I now post 100% of homework assignments on Studywiz Spark. I see higher completion rates and more thorough and reflective responses."

Self-evaluation and reflection on assignments and performance are endorsed by Lyford Cay International School. Student reflection is an important aspect of the course of study. By offering students the ability to view assignments and really think about them, the quality of work improves. Through the use of an assignment structure, Studywiz Spark gives teachers the ability to post assignments and related questions in various formats and gives students the opportunity to respond with detailed explanations.

"I have the flexibility of tailoring my assignments not only to each specific student, but I can also set the assignments up to extract responses that require higher-level thinking," Jennifer Ross, MYP Mathematics and Health Instructor, Lyford Cay International School. "I often pose questions like: 'What challenges did this assignment pose? What part of this assignment did you like best? How did this assignment contribute to your understanding of the content?' This capability helps me to engage my students, learn how they interpret content and gain a better understanding of their individual learning styles."

In addition to meeting the needs of teachers and students, Studywiz Spark has been instrumental in meeting the needs of parents at Lyford Cay International School. The school provides a unique environment in that families tend to be very involved in their students' education. They often expect, and even demand, to be aware of the daily activities of their students' classrooms. Studywiz Spark enables parent access, so that parents can remain actively involved in their child's learning experience. Parents are able to see how Studywiz Spark provides individualization when additional content, assignments and explanations are posted specifically for their student.

"Our parents thrive on the fact that they are able to keep current on their students' education by actually being able to see the quality of content that is distributed on Studywiz Spark," said Gutowski. "Parental involvement has been high, and parental interest is even more impressive. Next year, we will be using Studywiz Spark across the board in all grades, and we are particularly eager to see how our parents react, especially among the lower grades. With Studywiz Spark's Elementary Interface, younger students will be engaged by larger text and more pictures and graphics. We think parents will love the age-appropriate features."

Lyford Cay International School is excited about Studywiz Spark and its ability to enhance the one-to-one learning environment, and this excitement has proven to transfer to the school's entire community – teachers, students, parents and administrators.

"We needed a glue to hold together our technology applications and give us a sense of completeness, from the technological side," said Gutowski. "Studywiz Spark was just that. It's an exciting and engaging tool for our school community that can be used to address the demands of the technology-infused classroom. At

the end of our first year of engagement with Studywiz Spark, we could not be more satisfied. We have in place a Dynamic LearnSpace that allows us to improve interaction and unify our technologies. We have made great progress from where we started and are excited to see how we can continue to grow in the future.”

For further information on Studywiz Spark visit [www.studywiz.com](http://www.studywiz.com)