



Brophy College Prep Case Study

Preparing the next generation of leaders in America is a task educators at Brophy College Preparatory in Phoenix, Arizona, take very seriously, and school administrators have recently given instructors one more valuable tool to make their jobs easier: the InFocus LiteShow II wireless projection device.

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1928, Brophy College Preparatory is a private Jesuit high school for young men; the school has an enrollment of approximately 1,270 students. The school balances a rich 450-year education tradition founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola with a desire to educate leaders who are fully-equipped to succeed in post-secondary education and careers of their choice. Part of equipping students for success is acknowledging the vast role of technology in the world.

“Our president has always been a big technology guy,” said Mike Welty, Director of Technology at Brophy. “He was well-aware of the role of technology in the world, even 15 years ago, and he has always believed that a classroom that doesn’t provide students with the latest technology isn’t preparing them for success.”

In order to more adequately prepare students for life beyond high school, Brophy embarked on an ambitious technology initiative: To equip every teacher and student with a tablet PC within five years. The school first rolled out tablet PCs to faculty members one year before beginning the student initiative. The following year, the school set out to achieve a 1:1 student to computer ratio – in other words, put a tablet PC in the hands of every student on campus. The school also set up two networks – one for teachers and staff, one for students.

Overall, the technology initiative ran smoothly except for one nagging issue. In order for teachers to connect with the faculty network, they needed docking stations within their classrooms. The school equipped each classroom with a docking station, but this, in part, defeated the

purpose of having a tablet PC. Teachers would walk into a classroom, snap the PC into a docking station, and then never move it. While each classroom did have projection equipment, teachers had to be connected to the docking station in order to use the projectors. In order to give presentations, they would either use a mobile mouse or remote control to advance slides in order to physically move around the room, or they would stay at the desk and PC in order to use the touch screen functions of the tablet PC. In either case, teachers were not using the full capabilities of projection technology or tablet PC, and they found it frustrating to provide interactive and engaging lectures to students.

THE SOLUTION

Although the overall technology initiative was largely successful, Welty and others were concerned about teachers who were still tethered to docking stations. “The docking station necessarily limited the tablet PC to a static device,” he said. “We wanted teachers to be mobile. With the teachers’ computers still stuck in the corner, we were not changing the landscape of the classroom.”

In response to the needs of instructors, school administrators began to look for a solution that would allow teachers to project wirelessly. “We checked the market, and some manufacturers were making adapters for their own projectors,” said Welty. “The frame rate was still very slow, though, and teachers lost a lot of material because they had to disconnect from the Internet to project.”

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- DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY,
MIKE WELTY



The solution arrived with the advent of the InFocus LiteShow II device. The school heard about the LiteShow II product and asked for a demo. “This was the breakthrough we needed,” said Welty, citing the ability of the LiteShow II device to easily integrate with the school’s existing network.

By the time school began in August 2008, Brophy Prep was able to install LiteShow II devices in all 60 classrooms. A handful of teachers had received training and were ready to move forward with wireless presentation.

LITE SHOW II IN THE CLASSROOM

Because Brophy Prep has a wide range of skill and comfort levels among faculty when it comes to technology, Welty chose a handful of “early adopters” to be the first to try out the LiteShow II device. “We threw quite a few eggs in one basket,” said Welty. “At the same time we rolled out the LiteShow unit, we rolled out new tablet PCs to about nine teachers.” The school did not purchase new docking stations for the new tablets, instead hoping that with the LiteShow device, teachers would be encouraged to carry their tablet PCs while projecting wirelessly and making screen notes as they moved around the room. Since the LiteShow device allows wireless connection to the school network, the docking station was no longer necessary.

On the first day of school, when teachers had only had their computers for about a week, they were given a 15-minute orientation on the LiteShow device. Since then, the initial group has been using the wireless projection capability with great results. “The response has been tremendous,” said Welty. “There have been some minor technical issues, but no one who is using it wants to go back.”

KEY ADVANTAGES FOR BROPHY

LiteShow II offered several key advantages for Brophy Prep over the other wireless presentation options, including:

- **Ease of Use:** With only 15 minutes of orientation on the LiteShow II device, the first wave of educators to use the device was able to dive in and start projecting wirelessly. In an environment where technology comfort ranges along a spectrum from the technology “hero” all the way to the educator who is uncomfortable with e-mail, this ease of use is a valuable feature.
- **Mobile Wireless Presentation with Any Projector:** Brophy Prep has a variety of projector

brands installed throughout its 60 classrooms; not all are InFocus projectors. Because it works with any brand projector, LiteShow II saves the school time and money by eliminating the need for more than one wireless presentation solution.

- **Additional Network Access:** By using the LiteShow II in Access Point Plus(+) mode, Brophy is able to allow teachers to connect wirelessly to the student network while projecting wirelessly. This configuration allows both Internet access during a presentation and the use of the LiteShows as additional network access points across the 10-acre campus.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Only two months into the school year, educators who had been given the 15-minute orientation on LiteShow II did not want to go back to static presentation methods. Teachers are now free to not only walk around the room while presenting, but also engage students more completely in their lectures and create a more fluid and productive learning environment. With tablet PC in hand and access to the Internet, teachers are able to make notes on their screens and presentation slides for all to see, access other source materials, and quickly answer student questions without having to return to a static PC on a docking station.

“The bottom line is flexibility,” said Welty, noting that movement allows flexibility. “The power that mobility adds can’t be emphasized enough.” With LiteShow II, Brophy Prep now has the mobility and flexibility to change the landscape of the classroom.

