

Case Study

Paul VI Catholic High School

»Laptops, when combined with teaching & learning software and interactive e-texts, are enabling our students to become more effectively involved in applying classroom learning«

Steve Latter, Laptop Program Director, Paul VI Catholic High School



The customer

Paul VI Catholic High School, established in 1983, is one of four secondary schools in the Arlington Diocesan school system of Virginia. From an original enrolment of 350 students, it has grown to a current capacity of 1,000 young men and women who seek the well-rounded educational experience that it offers.

With its challenging academic curriculum, distinguished performance and fine arts programs, sports and wide-ranging extracurricular activities, Paul VI is recognized as one of the finest college preparatory schools in the region. Above all, its unique character fosters a dedication to the inherent and singular value of each individual. The school seeks to inspire and challenge each student in small classroom settings and, in turn, looks to them to carry forth its mission to grow in grace and wisdom.

The challenge

Paul VI constantly strives to enhance the educational experience of its students and believes that technology can play a key part in bringing learning to life. Following several years of research culminating in the preparation of a formal business case, the school's Board approved a laptop program with the express goals of enhancing student learning and to enhance the development of 21st Century skillsets.

"As technology has improved life in our cars, homes, offices, and medical surgeries, so we were also sure that providing teachers and students with laptops would have a positive impact on curriculum learning," explains Steve Latter, Laptop Program Director, Paul VI Catholic High School. *"We carried out a one-year pilot program with six volunteer teachers the year before going live to convince ourselves that we were right."*

The pilot proved a success and Paul VI took the decision to roll out the laptop program to 550 sophomore and freshman students and 40 teachers in the current academic year. The program will expand to the entire student population over the next two school years culminating in approximately 1,100 students and 75 teachers on the program. Prior to the decision to implement, the school had to select the right technology partner to ensure it had a robust, high-performing device solution.

The customer

Country: USA
Industry: Education
Founded: 1983
Employees: 120
Website: www.paulvi.net



The challenge

Paul VI Catholic School wanted to develop a laptop program that would equip its students and teachers with the right tools to increase classroom learning, prepare their students for college, and to develop the 21st Century skillsets required by today's employers.

The solution

Following a comprehensive selection process, the school chose to provide 1,000 students, and 75 teachers with the Fujitsu LIFEBOOK T732/4 laptop. The school also chose DyKnow's teaching & learning software as part of the overall strategy.

The benefit

- Teachers now use the devices, combined with DyKnow software, to provide an engaging, immersive learning experience
- The Fujitsu LIFEBOOK T732 Laptop, and now the most recent T734 model, is giving students the flexibility to have all their computing needs covered for 4 years in one device
- By supplying almost half of set textbooks in e-book format, students' families are now saving approximately 50 percent on costs
- The school's transformation to a more student-centered educational program puts Paul VI at the forefront of the private school educational sector and positions it well in the highly competitive Fairfax County Public School system

A seven-person team, made up of teachers and technology advisors, shortlisted three vendors to provide that solution. Fujitsu won based on its local support and collaborative approach. The school also selected Computerware, Inc. out of Vienna, Virginia as its Fujitsu distributor due to its strong reputation within Northern Virginia.

"The number one reason was the fact that Fujitsu could provide more local support than its competitors. It also had a clearer product roadmap and more compelling references in the educational sector," adds Latter. "Fujitsu listened closely to our needs and understood what we wanted to achieve. This enabled it to propose the most fitting solution."

The solution

In the first year, Paul VI chose to supply the 550 students with a Fujitsu LIFEBOOK T732 Laptop, a Convertible Tablet PC that offers the perfect blend of value, performance, versatility, and mobility. Parents simply order the laptop and protective case from a dedicated online portal managed by its distributor, Computerware, Inc. The device is then dispatched to the school where it is imaged by the school's IT team. The IT team, trained by Fujitsu in Memphis, also provides the first line of support with a helpdesk.

"The Fujitsu LIFEBOOK T732 is a flexible, robust solution that has the potential to really bring lessons to life," continues Latter. "By combining it with DyKnow, we have a dynamite package that engages students and teachers alike."

DyKnow products are designed to simplify the classroom and enable teachers to focus on enhancing student learning through software that will illustrate their lessons, cut down on administrative tasks, and provide quicker and more reliable assessments of learning. In turn, the interactive nature of the software motivates students to collaborate more not only with the teacher but also with their peers in a digital environment.

Products and services

- Fujitsu LIFEBOOK T732 Laptops (2013-2014 academic year)
- Fujitsu LIFEBOOK T734 Laptops (2014-2015 academic year)
- DyKnow Vision & Monitoring Software
- Ongoing transition to e-texts from hard texts

"With DyKnow and Fujitsu we have developed a more student-centered approach to learning but it also keeps the teacher in charge and allows them to remotely control student laptops and specify what can be done in class," says Latter. "Teachers can electronically send and reclaim work, integrate student polling questions into their lectures to assess learning, and seamlessly introduce a plethora of e-text activities and projects."

The benefit

The school conducts formal student surveys every two years and, when it comes to how well the establishment uses technology, its score have improved by 20 percent following the laptop deployment. And, although some teachers have been slow to fully integrate them into lessons, many have confirmed that it has transformed how they teach.

"Paul O'Leary, one of our Mathematics teachers, and Maria Devlin, one of our World Language teachers, would quickly tell you that the laptop program has made them better teachers through providing them with better tools," comments Latter. "One only has to visit their classrooms once to see how today's Math and World Language students are actively learning each day."

Furthermore, because the school can now get approximately half its set texts in e-text format, it is making significant cost savings.

"e-texts are approximately 50 percent less expensive than physical textbooks. When you multiply that across 1,000 students, you're talking about big savings," says Latter. "It also means less strain on the shoulders of our students who don't have to lug around as many weighty books."

Conclusion

Paul VI now plans to issue each new incoming freshmen class with the latest Fujitsu LIFEBOOK and DyKnow software version so that by the 2015-2016 academic year, every student will have one.

"The Fujitsu LIFEBOOK T734, laptop coupled with DyKnow software, provides our students and teachers with the best combination of portability, efficiency and productivity. It is a one-stop-shop solution for enhanced education."

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