



Background

O'Fallon Township High School has 2,400+ students and has launched a technology initiative to build classrooms for the future. Located in O'Fallon, Illinois, OFTHS has earned many academic and athletic awards.

The Challenge

We really needed a better student management system for the classroom. We had been using another software solution, but it was slow and we needed a more efficient and feature-rich tool. Teachers needed a seamless way to manage student utilization of the computers in their labs. We also needed a safeguard to prevent student access of unapproved web sites.

Situation

The school researched the internet and discovered NetSupport School. The most important features of NetSupport School were ease of implementation and use, the ability to show teacher's screen to student screens, view multiple student screens for monitoring, monitor/restrict the Internet and application usage, chat and file distribution so instructors could send out files and collect course work at the end of class.

For more details and to download free 30 day software trials go to

www.netsupportsoftware.com

NetSupport Solution

NetSupport is a better solution for us. It is in "real time", so I don't need to keep hitting refresh to see the students' screens update. Also, when I drag my mouse over the little picture of their screens it automatically is enlarged without me having to click the screen and wait for their large screen to load. That was one of the problems with our older solution. It was so slow and if you're not quick with your typing or keyboarding skills it is hard to "catch" somebody before they click off. The ability to read the little screens is clearer on NetSupport. I can clearly tell when a kid is on a website rather than a word document because the graphics are clearer.

In NetSupport I have the ability to list the websites that my students can go to in a monitoring menu. Therefore, all the others they will be locked out of except for the ones I select. I can create a simulated whiteboard screen on each students' computer. I can IM back and forth with selected students or the whole class can IM together. I can see and maintain all the messages as they occur. I can eject any students that I want. It is again all in real time so there is no need to refresh. I can show a video on their screens and replay certain scenes. I can administer timed tests on the screen and actually control when and how they start the test. I can send audio announcements to the students. I can co-browse with students on the internet by typing in a site and then the students' screens show that.

The more I play with this the more I love it. We have a more manageable classroom that ensures a more efficient utilization of the lab computers.

By installing NetSupport School, the district has also taken the necessary steps to ensure that the very best tools have been deployed for avoiding liability.

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