

Case Study

Athol Murray College of Notre Dame

»The students love the Fujitsu tablets and they really have found it easier to prepare for exams, which brings better results. The devices are now at the heart of our educational program«

Patrick Vigneron, IT Manager, Athol Murray College of Notre Dame



The customer

Athol Murray College of Notre Dame is a boarding and co-educational High School dedicated to the primacy of the spiritual in education. Founded in 1920 in the remote prairielands of central Canada, it is committed to helping its 300 students become purposeful leaders with virtuous character and a global mind-set.

The challenge

As a private school situated in an isolated village, Notre Dame strives to ensure it offers the best educational experience in order to attract students. One of its key strengths is its outstanding athletics program, which produces regular NHL players and college scholarships. However, recently it decided that technology was one area in which it could lead the field on the prairies.

“We wanted to be at the cutting edge of educational technology so we spent time looking at how other schools were incorporating modern devices into the learning framework and the most successful examples had one thing in common: Fujitsu devices,” explains Patrick Vigneron, IT Manager, Athol Murray College of Notre Dame. “One campus that particularly impressed us was St. Andrew’s College near Toronto, which had introduced a one-to-one program that equipped every student and faculty member with a convertible tablet.”

Notre Dame looked at a wide variety of other tablets and laptops over the course of a year but it was the experience of other schools that convinced it that Fujitsu would be the best partner. Not only could it provide convertible tablets with keyboard and stylus interfaces but, more importantly, it could offer hot-swappable batteries that would ensure extended operation time.

“Our campus dates from the 1920s and in some buildings we have extremely limited access to power outlets. Therefore the ability to create battery stations where users could swap out dead batteries was essential,” adds Vigneron. “That ability, combined with the versatility and robustness of the Fujitsu LIFEBOOK T732, made it the ideal device for us.”

The solution

Notre Dame began rolling out the devices to its faculty staff, followed by a pilot in two student classes. This enabled it to iron out any flaws in the integration of the devices with the back end data.

The customer

Country: Canada
Industry: Education
Founded: 1920
Employees: 80
Website: www.notredame.ca



The challenge

Notre Dame wanted to modernize its approach to teaching by incorporating cutting edge technology into the everyday life of the school. It wanted to equip every teacher and student with a flexible, robust device that would transform the educational experience.

The solution

The school looked at other educational institutions and saw that the most successful examples had one thing in common: Fujitsu. Following an extensive research program, Notre Dame equipped 24 faculty members and 300 students with the Fujitsu LIFEBOOK® T732 Tablet PC.

The benefit

- Teachers and students can share information and resources instantly, making the learning process much more engaging
- In tandem with Microsoft® OneNote®, the tablets act as a virtual binder containing all the information any user might need
- Notre Dame now relies much less on textbooks and photocopies saving around \$70k per year
- Students have found preparing for exams much easier as the Fujitsu LIFEBOOK encourages an efficient and organized approach to revision

Fujitsu provided an engineer who designed an application to interface with the student database and create a directory structure and permission-based information access.

"Fujitsu collaborated with us closely to make sure the system worked perfectly. When the pilot ended, we had a finalized system image which meant Fujitsu could pre-configure each device before shipment," continues Vigneron. "We have gone on to equip each of our 300 pupils and 24 teachers with the Fujitsu LIFEBOOK T732 which connect over a new WiFi network with access points in every classroom."

The 12.5-inch LIFEBOOK T732 Tablet PC is equipped with full security-enhanced features such as biometric fingerprint sensor and BIOS password protection. The convertible tablet also comes with a strengthened glass display for precise drawing and great durability. Users can add on modular options such as a second battery, thanks to the built-in modular bay with quick release latch for easy inter-changeability.

"Being able to switch from stylus input to typing is critical because subjects such as mathematics and the sciences demand the ability to draw graphs and equations easily," says Vigneron. "Likewise, durability is important in the rough and tumble of a school environment – particularly one where temperatures can reach minus 30 Celsius in winter."

At the heart of this new approach to learning is Microsoft OneNote, which acts as a 'virtual binder' that can be easily shared between users. Teachers can use it to plan lessons and to monitor students' progress in class. Vigneron and his team spent considerable time training the faculty to ensure they could get the most from it.

"Microsoft OneNote allows users to capture any resource and share it with others. So our teachers now have the unlimited power of the internet to incorporate into lessons," comments Vigneron. "That helps them bring learning to life and engages the students."

Products and services

- FUJITSU Tablet LIFEBOOK T732

The benefit

Aside from the excellent battery life, ruggedized exterior and outstanding performance, the most important benefit for Notre Dame has been the ability to transform the educational experience. Teachers have access to practically limitless information resources at the touch of a button and can share them instantly. Similarly, students have a single repository for all the information they need. This means a reduced reliance on physical textbooks and photocopied lesson plans.

"We are saving around \$60k per annum on our textbook budget and up to \$1000 each month on paper costs," says Vigneron. "That helps offset the initial investment in the Fujitsu tablets, the cost of which is also included in the tuition fees. And it has created a much stronger learning environment for pupils of all abilities – that, in turn, makes us an attractive choice for parents."

One unexpected advantage was also reported by students following the end of semester exams. The fact that they had all the information and resources needed in one simple device made studying much more organized and efficient.

"The students love the Fujitsu tablets and they really have found it easier to prepare for exams, which brings better results," adds Vigneron. "The devices are now at the heart of our educational program."

Conclusion

Notre Dame now has a high-performing, durable and flexible convertible tablet that has helped it transform how it teaches. By connecting all the students and teachers, the school has brought learning to life.

"Our parents are extremely excited that their kids are involved in a true 21st Century learning environment. When you send your children to private school, there has to be value-added and that's what Fujitsu gives us."

Patrick Vigneron, IT Manager, Athol Murray College of Notre Dame

Contact

FUJITSU AMERICA, INC.
Address: 1250 E. Arques Avenue,
Sunnyvale, CA 94085-3470, USA
Phone: 800 831 3183 or 408 746 6000
E-mail: AskFujitsu@us.fujitsu.com
Website: solutions.us.fujitsu.com
2014-12-22

© 2014 Fujitsu and the Fujitsu logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Fujitsu Limited in Japan and other countries. Other company, product and service names may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners. Technical data subject to modification and delivery subject to availability. Any liability that the data and illustrations are complete, actual or correct is excluded. Designations may be trademarks and/or copyrights of the respective manufacturer, the use of which by third parties for their own purposes may infringe the rights of such owner.