



ADTRAN Helps St. Luke Catholic School Enrich Student Learning

ProCloud Wi-Fi

ADTRAN & St. Luke Catholic School

At a Glance

Company Name

St. Luke Catholic School

Industry

Education

Founded

1959

Location

Palm Springs, Florida

Website

www.stlukepalmsprings.org

About St. Luke Catholic School

St. Luke Catholic School provides PreK – eighth-grade education to its diverse student body of varied ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Over 65 percent of students are considered low income, qualifying for free or reduced lunch and 70 percent of students are on scholarships.



The Challenge

As many schools across the country have replaced text-books and whiteboards with YouTube videos and tablets, St. Luke was looking to enrich its curriculum with technology to expand opportunities for its students. But first, St. Luke needed to partner with an expert to transform the school's network to support its technology and education goals.



The Solution

ADTRAN ProCloud® – a cloud-managed service for Wi-Fi and Ethernet switching that delivers a robust, high-performance, highly available wired and wireless network. ProCloud unlocks the power of technology in the classroom and beyond. It can be tailored easily to meet the specific needs of students, teachers, and administrators, creating a modern, technology-empowered learning environment.



The Benefit

ADTRAN ProCloud enabled St. Luke to finally become a fully connected campus with the ability to meet its ambitious goals for a curriculum immersed in technology. Enrollment is up by 18 percent and students now experience a modern learning environment.

During the 2016-2017 school year, St. Luke embarked on its quest to become a more tech-oriented campus by launching a 1:1 initiative providing one tablet or laptop to each student and partnering with the Notre Dame Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE). The alliance's mission is to close the achievement gap by creating high expectations for academic growth and character formation in underserved communities.

“Without these programs, our children would not have access to the outside world or a 21st century viewpoint. The collaboration that our students have enjoyed using Skype with schools across the country would all be lost learning opportunities,” Principal Diann Bacchus said.

Beyond the classrooms, Wi-Fi improvements were crucial across the entire campus at St. Luke, as students are often encouraged to take their learning outdoors. To support more than 200 students connecting to the Wi-Fi simultaneously, school administrators quickly realized that a much stronger network was needed.

Building a Better Backbone

St. Luke brought in network consultant Matthew Brunk who knew a complete rewiring and hardware replacement throughout the entire campus was necessary.

“Without a solid infrastructure, St. Luke can't do testing, they can't do school management, they can't do online classrooms,” Brunk said. “These services are network dependent. Period.”

He immediately recommended that the school work with ADTRAN, a network technology vendor, and Pulse Supply, an IT Solutions and Managed Services Provider, to meet its network needs. Together, Brunk and Pulse Supply built the new backbone for the school's network leveraging ADTRAN switches and ProCloud.

With ProCloud's cloud-managed system, IT staff can now login from anywhere to manage the entire system, saving time and money. The ADTRAN solution proved to be the quickest and most cost-effective option due to ProCloud's complete planning, network design and implementation services. As the network continues to scale with the school's growing enrollment, Pulse Supply can easily manage network additions, improvements and upgrades.

“Their costs are coming down. They have fewer vendors to deal with. The network is consistent,” Brunk said.

From a Dysfunctional Network to “Wow”

Because of these network improvements, St. Luke is finally a fully connected campus with the ability to meet its ambitious goals for a curriculum that is immersed in technology.

According to Brunk, “This school has made accelerated progress, going from a dysfunctional network to ‘Wow, look at what we're doing.’ They've got a rock solid, hoppin' network.”

“*Now, the network can handle double the amount of traffic than before and is poised to implement 100Mbps service*”

Now, the network can handle double the amount of traffic than before and is poised to implement 100Mbps service soon. Additionally, the school's enrollment has already increased 18 percent, just months after the network update was completed.

Most importantly, the students' education has been forever improved. When students open their laptops and connect to the Wi-Fi, they are opening their eyes to all that the globally connected world has to offer. Students can take virtual field trips to the Pyramids in Egypt or to the Louvre in Paris, participate in NASA's Orion's Quest program, where they remotely assist with experiments conducted on the International Space Station and even learn how to code. Now, students almost exclusively complete assignments and take tests on their devices, giving them and their teachers instant feedback.

Since the network also extends to the campus sanctuary, family life center, and outdoor areas, other community members are able to take advantage of the Wi-Fi, too. From incorporating more technology elements into mass in the sanctuary to holding community or fundraising events on the lawn, the new network has far surpassed expectations. “This new network has transformed how they operate as a school, congregation, and community,” Brunk said.

St. Luke is not an isolated case, as ADTRAN has helped many schools reach new technology heights and has given them the ability to provide a state-of-the-art, 21st century educational experience that prepares students for their futures in the globally connected, digital world.



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