

Students have more fun learning with HP Tablet PCs

Oklahoma PK-8 private school turns to HP technology for innovation, reliability



Monte Cassino School

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– Nancy Stutsman, director of technology, Monte Cassino School

HP customer case study: Private school chooses HP Tablet PCs

Industry: Education

Objective:

Monte Cassino School wanted classroom hardware to help elevate student performance and interest.

Approach:

Private school acquired more than 70 HP Tablet PCs for two classrooms, with plans to purchase hundreds more by 2009.

IT improvements:

- Durability helps extend product lifecycles
- Reliability leads to fewer service and support issues

Business benefits:

- Greater ease of use encourages higher-quality work
- Improved student performance
- Greater efficiency for teachers and administrators
- Students better prepared for the next level

After attending the National Educational Computing Conference last summer, teachers and administrators at Monte Cassino School in Tulsa, Oklahoma, were determined to put into action a new technology strategy aimed at engaging students in the classroom in a whole new way.

Their technology of choice? The HP Compaq tc4400 Tablet PC.

Tablet PCs prove the perfect fit

For years, the staff at Monte Cassino had struggled with identifying and deploying technology that would “truly elevate the learning environment” for students and teachers alike.

“We were looking for something beyond the traditional (desktop and notebook) PC setting,” says Nancy Stutsman, the school’s director of technology. “We wanted something new and innovative that engaged the students and made them even more eager to learn. We were looking for a device that was fun to use and also encouraged them to go above and beyond the norm. The Tablet PC was the perfect match.”



Customer

About Monte Cassino School

Located in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Monte Cassino School (PK-8) is a Benedictine community school of parents, children and faculty working together to promote what is best for each child. Monte Cassino has been owned and operated by the Benedictine Sisters since 1926.

For more information, visit www.montecassino.org.

Contact the HP Customer Reference Program, 281-514-5755, for more information.

Through HP technology partner CDW, Monte Cassino tested and then acquired 72 HP Compaq tc4400 Tablet PCs as the first phase in a multi-year strategy that will result in Tablet PCs in every classroom in third through eighth grades by 2009.

The computers were installed in two classrooms – a third grade class and a fifth grade science class. In addition, teachers at the sixth, seventh and eighth grade levels received Tablet PCs in order to evaluate and prepare for full deployment over the next two years.

The third grade class uses the Tablet PCs for spelling, music and art projects. Using the stylus directly on the PC screen also helps them learn to read and work with graphs and charts.

The fifth grade science class has successfully used the Tablet PCs to work on various experiments, including heat exchange and temperature variation. Students use the stylus to make notes on the screen and retrieve new information while simultaneously observing experiment results. It helps them learn to multi-task and work more efficiently, notes Sister Mary Clare Buthod, the school's director. "It's also a lot of fun to use," she points out.

"One thing we've noticed that we didn't expect is a significant improvement in handwriting," says Buthod. "Students need to write clearly on the Tablet PC's screen in order for the software to recognize the letters. It's great to see technology work in surprisingly positive ways."

Buthod also points out that the small, lightweight Tablet PCs encourage students to work together.

"Sometimes you see the students huddle around one or two Tablet PCs, to follow along with what one of their classmates is doing," she says. "The students can carry the Tablet PC to the teacher's desk or easily lift it up to show the screen to others. It definitely encourages collaboration and teamwork – very important skills as these students move on to higher levels."

The next step is to allow the students to begin taking the HP Compaq Tablet PCs home with them. Once the school has fully deployed Tablet PCs in every classroom, the students will be encouraged to also

work on them from home, using the same Internet filters that they use in class.

"The kids can't wait. They're already begging for homework so they can take the Tablet PCs home with them at the end of the day," Stutsman says. "Because it's fun to use the Tablet PC, the students are that much more eager to get their hands on them. We're in the process of setting up the network so that the entire environment is portable, not just the Tablet PC."

Performance and reliability

Equipped with powerful Intel Core Duo™ and Intel Core 2 Duo™ processors, the tc4400 allows multiple applications to run simultaneously. Teachers can access, monitor and comment on a student's work in real-time, without interrupting any open applications. The Tablet PCs are also very durable and designed for years of heavy use, as Stutsman says.

"We've been very impressed with the reliability and durability of the Tablet PCs," she notes. "They feel solid and well-built, and we've noticed that there is very little wear and tear despite having hands on them all day long."

The tc4400 is specifically designed for heavy day-to-day use and portability. Its 12.1-inch, diagonal 160-degree wide-viewing angle display and specially-treated glass provide superior viewing, durability and a comfortable writing surface. Installed with the HP Mobile Data Protection System 3D, the tc4400 detects motion and helps protect data from shock and vibration. Its magnesium frame and full magnesium alloy enclosure provide a durable structure, and the in-mold lamination offers a scratch-resistant surface.

HP Tablet PCs also ship with a three-year limited warranty on parts and labor, a feature that Stutsman singles out as one of her favorites.

"It delivers peace of mind, knowing that HP stands behind the product," she says. "It makes my job much easier knowing that service and support are just a phone call away. HP has been excellent to work with during our testing and set-up phase for this first round of Tablet PCs, and we look forward to working with them as we purchase more units over the next several years."

To learn more, visit www.hp.com

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