



CUSTOMER

Catalyst Charter Schools

INDUSTRY

K12 Education

LOCATION

Chicago, Illinois

SIZE

2 Schools serving
1,000 students

CUSTOMER

As a college-prep charter school network in Chicago, Illinois, Catalyst Schools is tasked with educating students from some of Chicago's most distressed neighborhoods. Currently, the Catalyst Schools network consists of two schools, Circle Rock Charter and Howland Charter, with expansion plans to include more schools soon.

The stated mission of Catalyst Schools is to create "educational settings that nurture academic, social, and emotional growth." Through this mission, Catalyst strives to provide their students with educational resources to become citizens of character and class. Part of the plan for Catalyst students includes exposure to technology in order to better prepare them for life outside school.

When the schools started exploring options for digital content management, they became enthralled with MediaCAST from the beginning.

IMPLEMENTATION

Currently installed in Circle Rock Charter, a K-8 school in Chicago's Austin neighborhood, the school is already excited about the possibilities MediaCAST can provide to the rest of the Catalyst Schools.

In order to effectively communicate with students, parents and staff, Circle Rock Charter installed two digital signage monitors on campus. The LCD screens have been strategically placed at the main entrance and in the office for maximum exposure. These digital signs are used to share important school news and updates as well as any emergency notifications that may be necessary.

The two OnLocation Carts, one for each floor, at Circle Rock Charter are used to broadcast student created morning announcements to the entire school. Additionally, the school can now record live events such as plays, concerts and graduations and save them for on-demand viewing, on and off campus.

Through IPTV, Circle Rock Charter can watch and record live TV. Recordings can be saved in the MediaCAST library for later, on-demand viewing and teachers can even create shorter clips out of long recordings for easier classroom use.

Charter Schools

Charter schools operate autonomously within a school district, providing them the freedom to decide how the school is run, what rules will be in place and the curriculum that will be taught. Each school creates a charter that outlines its intended goal and how it will achieve the stated outcome. Regardless of the stated mission of the school, charter schools are still accountable for students' achievement on state mandated tests. The number of charter schools varies by school district, with many states passing laws to determine the number of charter schools allowed.

LOOKING FORWARD

In the future, Catalyst Schools sees MediaCAST becoming even more entrenched in daily school life. Plans are in place to install MediaCAST systems in new schools as they are opened. MediaCAST uses a central data center for easy implementation into additional schools without having to purchase new hardware.

Catalyst Schools also sees potential for MediaCAST to be used so that teachers at each location can video conference with one another. With the schools about a half hour apart, the ability to video conference would save teachers a lot of time and the district a lot of money.