

Enriched Learning Experience

Spotsylvania County Schools Chooses Ergotron's Large Format Display Carts to Do More With Less Across 33 Schools

PRODUCT PLACEMENT

- Ergotron Neo-Flex Mobile MediaCenter
www.ergotron.com
- Tandberg Edge 95 MXP series Video Conferencing System
www.tandberg.com
www.attronica.com
www.viewsonic.com

Spotsylvania County Schools

Spotsylvania County Schools is a global learning community consisting of 33 schools—17 elementary, 7 middle, 5 high and 4 other specialties schools—located across Spotsylvania County, an area covering 407 square miles, located in Eastern Virginia. With over 24,000 students and 1,725 teachers, the average student to teacher ratio is equal to 22:1. Bill Flaherty, Assistant Superintendent for Technology Services, oversees the technology purchasing for the entire region (with roughly a \$10 million bond allowance for technology).

In 2008 Spotsylvania County Schools found itself, like many other educational districts and systems, facing reduced funding and fewer employees. Bill Flaherty was tasked with the

challenge to allocate these funds in such a way that would allow individual schools within the system to continue to provide the same quality learning experiences while maintaining the level of excellence their students deserved. Spotsylvania County Schools worked with its local reseller, Don Bright of Attronica, to provide creative technology solutions.

Assessing Spotsylvania County Schools' Needs

Bill knew that a mobile video conferencing system would be key to meeting his challenge of providing high quality education experiences with fewer resources. A simple projector setup was not the ideal application for Spotsylvania County Schools. One-time connection and networking capabilities were also required. In addition to these needs, the mobile platform for the system would have to move from room to room easily, which meant that the base width needed to be less than 36." It would also need to accommodate different viewing positions with simple ergonomic adjustability.

Developing the Right Solution

Bill and Don discussed and converged on the Tandberg Edge 95 MXP camera because the system allowed for a one-time setup with the use of a 46" Viewsonic Large Display, and because it had wireless networking capabilities. It also offered the convenience of joining up to four video sites and three audio sites to easily connect teachers and students for a more productive learning experience. The mobile carts that Tandberg offers with their video conferencing products were considered, but the base size of these carts did not meet Bill's 36" maximum criteria for easy room to room movement, nor did these carts offer real-time ergonomic adjustability. Without hesitation, Don recommended Ergotron's large format display cart because of its compact 29.4" base, its easy display height adjustments, and its durable,



sleek design. The initial rollout in late 2008 was comprised of the LX Large Display cart, then transitioned to Ergotron's next generation Neo-Flex™ Mobile Media Center in Q1 of 2009.

Team Approach

The 33-cart deployment was made smoother across Spotsylvania County Schools' 33 campuses primarily due to the efforts of a small group of their Instruction Technology Resource Teachers. There are 24 ITRT on staff, and they were available to assist the teachers with set-up, maintenance, and ongoing IT questions.

The Payoff

As a result, Spotsylvania County Schools has rolled out 33 mobile video conferencing systems in Q1 of 2009. One of the many benefits they have already noticed includes a better ability to interact with students and teachers at different facilities:

- By having one unit in every school, they are able to engage in inter-district classroom-to-classroom participation.
- The Director of Food Services, by wheeling a unit into his office, is able to conduct live meetings with his staff across all facilities while sitting at his desk.
- Students can take virtual field trips to NASA and the Washington National Zoo via these high-tech units.
- On a more personal level, Bill noted one unexpected benefit. Using the video conferencing unit, one teacher was able to help a student make the adjustment through a difficult transitional period moving to a new district.



With the complete technology investment, Spotsylvania County Schools is more adequately prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st Century Classroom, not only helping both student and teachers create the same, but also new, quality learning experiences.

In Conclusion

Ergotron's Neo-Flex Mobile MediaCenter provided the perfect platform onto which Spotsylvania County Schools could build a state-of-the-art mobile video conferencing system. This solution not only allowed the staff the opportunity to easily maneuver their technology platform from room to room while serving a variety of their projection needs, it also offered real-time optimal viewing angles for their various applications; especially important when recognizing how ergonomic requirements shift for students and teachers all ages. Maximizing technology while delivering a higher level of learning was achieved with the combination of the Ergotron's Neo-Flex Mobile MediaCenter, the Viewsonic Large Display, and the Tandberg Edge 95 MXP system.



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