Ergotron Brings Movement to Thriving STEM High School

APPLE VALLEY, MINNESOTA SCHOOL DISTRICT 196

From kindergarten through senior year, students in Minnesota School District 196, which includes Apple Valley High School (AVHS), are immersed in STEM learning in ways that are dynamic, interactive and engaging. Ergotron’s movement solutions are playing a key role in a variety of spaces to help inspire the best learning.

“Mobility is really important at our school. We need to be able to move classes into the mezzanine and commons, and reconfigure space to accommodate large and small groups all in the same day,” said Jim Lynch, AVHS E3 STEM Program Manager during a tour of the school.

In the school’s Fabrication Laboratory or Fab Lab, students combine their STEM knowledge with creative and fun projects that make learning come alive. Ergotron products, including a STEM-focused YES24/36 Adjusta™ Charging Cart and LearnFit® mobile desks, are prominent throughout. Students quickly roll the mobile desks to different areas of the lab with their laptops.
Apple Valley High School (AVHS) is part of Independent School District 196, 15 miles south of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Learning facility: State-of-the-art digital classroom design includes built-in LCDs, SMART technology, a 11 student iPad program, and student mobile computing labs. AVHS also has a fully-equipped television and digital editing studio, among other special facilities that allow students to study CISCO networking, IT essentials, music production, video production, and two levels of computer science courses.

STEM programming: STEM courses offer the opportunity for students to earn college credit and to explore a variety of career fields and pathways. Through mentoring and coursework, students are engaged with professionals to get an early start engaging in the STEM world.

STEM support: Originally funded, in part, by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration, AVHS also has a variety of educational and corporate supporters, including Ergotron.

“We appreciate how well the Ergotron equipment is made,” Jim adds. “The carts, especially, take a beating because they’re moved so much and sometimes even do double duty as transport carts. We put very heavy, expensive AV equipment on them, move them all over the school, and we know the equipment—and the cart—will be fine!”

In the computer lab, a teacher uses a LearnFit desk at the front of the class, noting how the desk is solid, and moves smoothly and quietly. In the music production lab, a TeachWell® Mobile Digital Workspace has a prime position in the editing suite. Both students and teachers use the workstation because of its spacious worksurface and how it lets them sit or stand on-demand. Several LearnFit desks are also used in the library.

Jim notes how Ergotron’s products look professional and high-tech, including the LearnFit mobile desk that he calls a “workhorse.”

“Our principal even wheeled one on stage for a STEM presentation recently, which just added to the feeling of smart technology and creating spaces where students can prepare for the future,” he says. “Ergotron really fits here as we’re developing into a STEM magnet school.”