

UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS

AN EDUCATION
SUCCESS STORY

TECHNOLOGY WITH LONG-TERM RETURNS



The right technology supports a new curriculum

About the Client

Boardman Local is a K-12 school district in northeastern Ohio. The Technology team of two services the IT needs of 4500 students and 500 staff members in seven buildings. The district is committed to a well-rounded curriculum with high academic standards. In 2016, Boardman received the Ohio Momentum Award, an elite recognition of district-wide achievement of academic growth in reading and math for students from all backgrounds and ability levels.

Their Challenge

The district wanted to update the interactive capabilities in all of their learning environments. The classrooms had a variety of technologies including Promethean and SMART boards with overhead projectors that required high upkeep and costly bulb replacement. Additionally, the district was gradually transitioning to Chromebooks, but many teachers were still using desktops and laptops that were nearing their end-of-life.

Of more critical concern, however, was the imminent introduction of Everyday Math into the curriculum. The program had digital components for K-8 units, yet the middle schools did not have interactive boards that could support a complete learning experience.

OVERVIEW

Industry

Education

Client Profile

Boardman Local is a K-12 school district in northeastern Ohio, with 4500 students and 500 staff members located in seven buildings.

Business Situation

A new math curriculum required interactive technologies in middle school classrooms. This, coupled with high maintenance costs of existing devices throughout the district, prompted the IT team to explore new solutions.

Solution

ITsavvy suggested InFocus JTouch panels. The addition of Chromebooks brought cost-effective digital technologies district-wide.

Benefit

- > Integration with existing technologies brings higher ROI
- > Short learning curve enables faster curriculum assimilation
- > Students engage better with higher-level content
- > Improved classroom attention

Our Solution

“We understood their immediate dilemma, but we wanted to make sure they selected the most appropriate solution,” said Scott Gibson, ITsavvy Senior Client Executive and an education technology expert. “When we started the conversation with Boardman, we asked them, in a perfect world, what their ideal solution would look like.” The district IT Director told Scott he wanted a good return on investment for his IT budget. He also wanted a product that was simple to use without too many unneeded options. And it needed to integrate with existing devices of various manufacturers.

“InFocus immediately came to mind, but I wanted them to experience the product firsthand,” said Scott. He knew the district IT team would be at the next Ohio Educational Technology Conference, so he set up a 65” JTouch in the ITsavvy booth and invited them over for a demo. “Their response was very positive, and we scheduled an in-school demonstration for the teachers and superintendent. We brought in a 40” unit and invited the vice president of sales from InFocus to join us, just to make sure all of their questions would be answered,” said Scott. The teachers were able to use the demo unit for several days following the meeting, and they were hooked.

Their Success

The district started with an initial order of 137 JTouch panels for the classrooms. “Once we let the teachers play with demo panels in their own environments for a few days, we had an acceptance rate in the high 90% range,” said Todd Smith, Director of Technology for the Boardman district.

“The panels are vendor agnostic, so we can hook up all of our existing educational devices, including Apple TVs and DVD players. That translates into a really good ROI.”

An additional concern was how to install the units. Initially, they were to be wall-mounted but it was considered too invasive, so they purchased carts that are antimicrobial and are portable between classrooms.

Since the deployment, the district has completed their transition to Chromebooks and has installed Chromeboxes to enable YouTube videos and Discovery Education content. “I hear over and over that the technology is driving enthusiasm in both content and learning for teachers and students,” said Todd.

“We have found great value in JTouch’s vendor agnostic capability. It has enabled us to greatly extend our existing equipment investment.”

Director of Technology

“JTouch has a very short learning curve. It replicates the user experience of personal tablets and smartphones so students and teachers can quickly engage with the learning content.”

Director of Technology

“The teachers feel a lot of pressure to achieve classroom success,” Todd said. “They have higher testing goals, a new math program and a new language arts program. There’s a lot on their plates, but we have a relatively progressive Board of Education that sees the value of technology in learning. I’m very proud of the endorsement from the Board, and of my students and staff for a very smooth deployment,” said Todd.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
please contact an ITsavvy Client Executive.

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The ITsavvy Solution

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- Peerless SmartMount Antimicrobial Cart SR560M-AB

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