



A NEW UNIFIED NETWORK FOR ENHANCED STUDENT LEARNING

SHADY SIDE ACADEMY (SHADY SIDE)

Shady Side Academy is one of the oldest independent schools in Western Pennsylvania. Shady Side enrolls more than 940 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 on three unique campuses: Senior, Middle and Junior schools, including a 7-day boarding option for Senior school students.

CHALLENGES

Shady Side wanted to replace its aging multivendor environment with a robust and scalable unified wired and wireless network from a single vendor.

The school needed to ready the network for anticipated communications and security needs, while increasing WiFi density and coverage to close “dead spots,” fixing bandwidth issues, and supporting both 1:1 and BYOD student environments immediately.

Spotty network performance had hindered the use of new technologies, making teachers reluctant to try them. The solution needed to support these technologies in order to regain teachers’ trust and encourage innovative teaching methods.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- Alcatel-Lucent OmniSwitch® 6860E
- Alcatel-Lucent OmniSwitch® 6900 Stackable LAN Switch
- Alcatel-Lucent Omni Access AP205,225,205H
- Alcatel-Lucent OmniVista® 2500
- Alcatel-Lucent OmniVista® 3600 Air Manager
- Alcatel-Lucent ClearPass Policy Manager

WHAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE?

Shady Side had a strong relationship with Dagostino Electronic Services, Inc., the Business Partner, and was confident that the solution, tailor-made for the school’s environment, would meet its needs.

The school liked that the single vendor, single management Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise Unified Access infrastructure was scalable and flexible enough to support applications, such as VoIP.

Location: Pennsylvania, USA

Vertical: Education

Number of users: 1170

Deal implementation: June, 2015

Business partner: Dagostino Electronic Services, Inc



BENEFITS



TECHNICAL

The unified access network supports Aruba AirGroup™ feature which allows Shady Side to make full use of inexpensive classroom projection (e.g. AppleTV) with a high degree of control.

The right sized OmniSwitch® core network gives Shady Side great performance and high reliability, while remaining highly scalable.



FINANCIAL

Ongoing maintenance costs were very high; the new solution offers a much more affordable alternative.

The entire network was replaced within the school’s budget.



USER EXPERIENCE

The new network has allowed Shady Side to hire a full time staffer dedicated to classroom innovation, working with teachers to create a better and more innovative learning experience for students.



“We’ve effectively removed the technological barriers to change at Shady Side. Teachers don’t have to worry about technology failing them anymore and that makes all the difference. They can fully embrace new teaching tools to take student learning to the next level.”

Tim Winner, Director of Technology, Shady Side Academy