



CASE STUDY

Using Technology to Keep Up with the Pace of Growth – and Student Demand

Olentangy Local Schools, located in a rural suburb of Columbus, Ohio, is the fastest growing district in Ohio, so it's not surprising they've turned to technology to help them deal with the rapid growth. Schoology, an online learning management and social learning tool, in particular is making a big impact on the district.

Keith Pomeroy, Director of Technology, had been searching for a platform to facilitate the delivery of online courses for the district's Olentangy Teaching Academy (O2A). He was immediately drawn to Schoology because of how simple it is to use. "One look at it and I thought it was fantastic. I immediately knew how to use it because it's so much like the social media programs teachers and students are using outside of the classroom."

Student Engagement Tips the Scale in Favor of Schoology

Keith knew Schoology was the right solution for them when student use of Schoology voluntarily grew from 500 to 1,600 students while he and his colleagues were investigating several other learning management and social learning tools. "Our students had spoken. This was the platform they wanted to use. I was impressed with Schoology but student adoption made it an easy decision to move forward. I have never seen any product be adopted as quickly as Schoology."

Up and Running in No Time

Teachers across the district have embraced Schoology and quickly integrated it into their teaching strategies. According to Keith, "Schoology

Olentangy Local Schools

16,762 students

854 teachers

15 elementary schools

5 middle schools

3 high schools

has the lowest barrier to professional development I have ever seen in my 17 year career in educational technology. Most teachers know how to use it without any training. Even the more complex functionality is intuitive. We do offer professional development but mostly teachers have logged in and started using it on their own.”

Growing With the District’s Needs

Schoology will be an integral part of the district’s move towards offering fully online courses through O2A, which the district hopes will help to save the expense of building a new high school. In addition to online courses, Schoology has helped teachers implement a flipped classroom model. They’re able to easily upload videos or other content for students to review at home. “Schoology is available to students 24/7,” said Keith. “With Schoology, they can delve deeper into content faster and easier than they could have before. Schoology has had a huge impact on our students compared to other technologies. The device doesn’t matter. Students can access Schoology wherever they are on whatever devices they have—laptop, desktop, iPad, or even smartphone. It extends learning.”