

Enabling Student Learning Through New 1:1 Program

Whitfield School Evolves IT Strategy to Provide a Better Classroom Experience

Whitfield School

Whitfield School, a private, independent 6-12 grade school located in suburban St. Louis has been an early adopter of technology for many years. As one of the first schools in the area to implement a 1:1 technology program, Whitfield understands the value that technology plays in the classroom to provide a better learning experience to its students.

Challenge:

Whitfield has always recognized the importance of equipping its students with technology that will empower them to be successful in a rapidly changing environment. To accomplish this, the school decided many years ago to implement a 1:1 laptop program that put technology in the hands of every student on campus. Whitfield then established a four-year replacement cycle to support the program. However, at the end of the four years, it was left with hundreds of outdated, obsolete laptops.

In addition to the burden of the old devices, the school also had a need to address the faster pace at which technology was changing. Its four-year replacement cycle was too long to keep up with the speed of change. Director of Technology Matt DiGuilio recognized that by not replacing the devices more frequently the school runs the risk of boxing its students in and limiting their capacity to learn. However, since the technological needs of the school were changing faster than the budget flexibility to account for those changes could handle, Whitfield needed to find a way to evolve its IT funding strategy in order to maintain its differentiated standard of technology in the classroom.

Technology Renewal Program



School:
Whitfield School
St. Louis, MO

Program:
Asset Renewal Program

Project:
1:1 Technology Program

Financing:
2-Year FMV Lease

Solution:

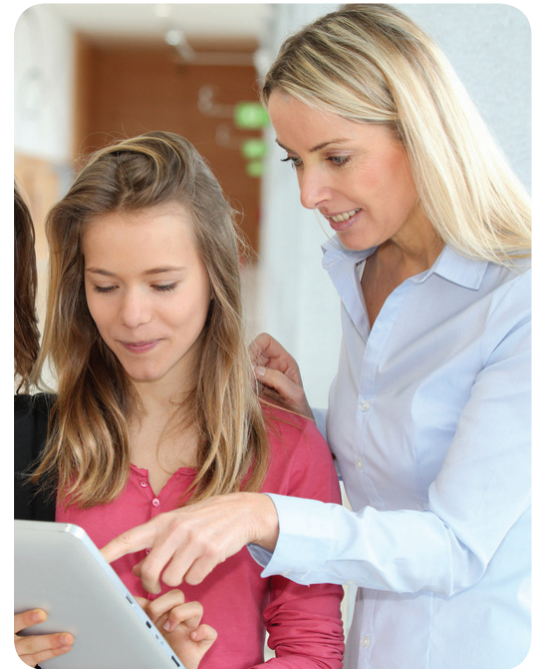
DiGiulio saw this as an opportunity to reevaluate the school's 1:1 laptop program. Recognizing that the focus of educational technology should be on the students and the curriculum, he knew that purposeful planning around the school's hardware and software was essential to support that vision. Having worked with First American to finance the devices for the current 1:1 program, he turned to them again to help build a more sustainable model.

First American took the time to work with Whitfield to design and implement a new technology program that refreshed the devices more frequently to keep pace with the changing technology. Instead of paying for the full value of the devices over the course of four years, Whitfield now leverages a two-year technology renewal program where it only pays for a portion of the devices and returns them to First American at the end of the lease.

Whitfield was also able to leverage the First American Equity Program. With this program, the school leveraged First American as an outside, 3rd party resource to handle the resale of the equipment—a task that was important, but non-mission-critical for the school. Through this program, First American was able to resell the school's four-year old devices and apply the proceeds to the new project. This allowed the school to focus on the needs of its students instead of the old devices.

Results:

Whitfield School was able to transition to a more pro-active and sustainable IT funding model for its 1:1 laptop program that balanced the need to keep pace with quickly changing technology needs while also ensuring the budget flexibility needed to meet the school's financial needs. The school now has a solution in place that better fits the needs of the students and enables future growth at Whitfield.



“First American was able to get to know us and know our needs really well, and they worked with us over the course of months to get it right.”

***- Matt DiGiulio,
Director of Technology***