Customer

Hennessey Public Schools is a school district in Oklahoma, running classes from pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade for some 900 students.

Vision

Hennessey wanted to enrich the classroom experience with interactive displays, and to make lessons available to students from anywhere. High speed internet cannot be guaranteed in rural Oklahoma, so they needed a solution that could work in low-bandwidth conditions, or could be accessed via phone. Classes also needed to be recorded for students unable to attend.

Solution

Hennessey applied for and won the USDA's RUS Grant to help finance the purchase and installation of hardware in every classroom: newline displays, poly codecs and the cloud video platform, Pragmatic by iotum, to bring the vision to life.

Result

Not only did students in Oklahoma have a chance to meet people from around the country and world, but Hennessey was also prepared to meet the challenges presented by COVID. Teachers and students were able to continue classes both in school and from home.

Case Study:
Education
Pre K-12

Hennessey Public Schools

An Oklahoma School District Uses the USDA's RUS Grant to modernize their classrooms: interactive displays, video codecs, and Pragmatic by iotum, a cloud video platform to connect students at school or at home.

The Customer

Hennessey Public School is a school district serving Kingfisher County in Oklahoma. They have nearly 900 students enrolled from Pre-K–12.

Dr. Mike Woods is the Hennessey Superintendent and led the charge to modernize the school district's learning spaces.

The Vision

Hennessey students, like many parts of the rural heartland, are geographically isolated. Dr. Woods wanted to connect these students with guest speakers, teachers, and other classes around the country and world. The goal was to use video conferencing and content-sharing technology to expand their horizons.

Beyond that, he wanted to make it easier for children or teachers to attend classes if they were prevented from making it in physically due to illness, sporting events, or even snow days.
Hennessey needed a way to facilitate distance education in an area with inconsistent internet speed, and to record lessons for those who missed out.

The Solution

Dr. Woods and the Hennessey team applied for (and won) the USDA's RUS Grant to finance the hardware necessary to fulfill their vision, which included:

Large touch-screen displays at the front of the classroom, effectively replacing the whiteboard. Teachers (or students) can write on the display, bring up images and annotate, or play videos on them.

Then, thanks to Poly codecs, the content being displayed on screen can be shared online for students to join remotely. Poly cameras capture the teacher and classroom and transmit that as well. Students at home feel like they are in the classroom.

And finally, a cloud video solution. In this case, Pragmatic by iotum is used to ensure that students can join from their browser at home, even with limited bandwidth and internet speed. In a pinch, they can join over the phone. Teachers can record via Pragmatic by iotum and share with students who were unable to make the class initially. ("No more snow days or missing classes for sports," jokes Dr. Woods.)

A subsequent grant allowed Hennessey to provide every student with a Chromebook laptop for use inside and outside the classroom, making sure everyone could join their class via Pragmatic by iotum.

The Result

An anecdote: Students at Aline-Cleo Public School were able to connect with a class in Rag- lan, New Zealand and complete several science classes together. They conducted a science experiment at the same time from around the world. Students told their teacher that it felt like they'd leave the classroom and bump into their new friends in the hall.

Beyond the success of the distance education program as planned, Hennessey was also fully prepared to deal with the COVID pandemic when schools were forced to close. Teachers were able to conduct lessons from home, and students followed along using the cloud-based video technology supported by Pragmatic by iotum on their laptop browsers.

Once school opened up again in the fall, anyone feeling symptoms of COVID was able to stay at home and still take part in classes. Hennessey even wrote a policy allowing teachers to teach from home without using sick days while their students were in class with a supervisor physically present.

> "Pragmatic by iotum is running for eight hours a day in our classrooms. It allows for the natural ebb and flow of classes. Kids at a distance are seeing the same content on their screen and hearing the same lesson as the kids in the classroom."

Dr. Mike Woods
Superintendent, Hennessey Public Schools

Pragmatic by iotum is the simplest, most secure, cost-effective video conferencing platform on the market today. Access meetings from any device; no matter how you use Pragmatic by iotum – in-browser or with video room systems. With zero downloads and browser-based technology, it becomes straightforward and efficient to collaborate, share content, record meetings, and more. Visit iotum webiste for more information!

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