



K12 Education

Daily Use

- Installation of systems in six learning centers

Solution

- Polycom® SpectraLink® 6000 Wireless Telephone system

Results and Benefits

- Quadrupled contact between parents and teachers
- Eliminates campus intercom systems and walkie-talkies
- Seamless integration with the schools' Centrex telephone system
- Immediate on demand communication raises safety for teachers with quick response capability

Lincoln School District Reaps Benefits with Polycom® SpectraLink® Wireless Telephones

Phyllis Kahl, principal at Lincoln Unified School District (Lincoln USD) in Stockton, California, typically spends her school day juggling administrative and student issues. At the Sture Larsson High School and McCandless Center, two high schools where she shares her time, Principal Kahl has to stay in constant communication with administrators, teachers, counselors, security, and support staff. But her high-octane days have shifted into a smoother gear with their recently installed Polycom® SpectraLink® 6000 Wireless Telephone systems. Lincoln USD installed the systems in six of its 14 learning centers.

Today, Kahl has ditched her district cellular telephone and is able to communicate with schools seamlessly. Kahl can dial administrators and staff at any of the schools by extension, regardless of whether or not they have a SpectraLink 6000 system.

"I am completely interconnected," Kahl says. "We are in constant communication within our school, with the high school behind us—we are finding the system absolutely fabulous."

'Here, Talk to Your Mom'

Not only are administrators' jobs simpler, but the SpectraLink Wireless Telephones also have boosted interaction between teachers and parents, which is a key imperative for the district. Both Sture Larsson High School and McCandless Center have seen parent-teacher communication quadruple, Kahl says.

"It is invaluable to be able to hand the wireless telephone to a student in the middle of a situation and say, 'Here, talk to your mom.' Not only do you have the immediacy of resolving an issue, you have the ability to be confidential about it and walk outside with it. The flexibility of usage is excellent."

Prior to deploying the SpectraLink 6000 system, teachers contacted parents sporadically throughout the day when they had time during breaks or their lunch hour to make calls from the schools' main offices. Successful contact with parents was infrequent and often resulted in phone tag. Both teachers and parents have noticed the difference in contact since the SpectraLink 6000 system was deployed, Kahl says.

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Phyllis Kahl, Principal, Lincoln Unified School District

“Now that we have SpectraLink 6000 Wireless Telephones, we are fully connected with not only each other, but also with anyone in the community we need to contact. More importantly, the communication is on demand.”

Phyllis Kahl, Principal, Lincoln Unified School District

Critical Voice Communications Make the Grade

SpectraLink 6000 Wireless Telephones are welcome communication devices that outperform the impromptu communications methods teachers have used for years to contact the office for any myriad of issues that surface in schools. The SpectraLink handsets eliminate the need for existing intercom systems teachers typically rely on to communicate with administrators. Eliminated, too, are walkie-talkies that security personnel and administrators used to rely on to keep order outdoors and in hallways, where teachers and staff do not have access to call buttons that summon assistance from the administrative office.

Kahl has found multiple benefits. Teachers can supervise students on the outdoor field, with the handset clipped to their belts. The worry that a fight could break out or that a student could suffer an injury without immediate response is no longer a concern.

“Now that we have SpectraLink 6000 Wireless Telephones, we are fully connected with not only each other, but also with anyone in the community we need to contact. More importantly, the communication is on demand,” Kahl says. “Teachers and parents can get a hold of me, counselors, anybody—immediately. The safety that comes with that communication is a plus. And the educational value is immeasurable.”

Back to Basics

Staff at the school have adapted to the SpectraLink 6000 handsets very quickly, with IT personnel distributing an information sheet and following up with individual demonstrations on keeping the handsets charged and other routine training.

“After that initial training, using these handsets has been a snap,” Kahl says. “The staff raves about the benefits of these handsets.”

The integration of SpectraLink 6000 system with the school district’s Centrex telephone service makes voice communication seamless. Another significant benefit schools gain with SpectraLink 6000 Wireless Telephones is that the handsets interoperate only within the school’s telecommunications infrastructure, which prevents the temptation of theft.

“The message that we give to kids is, ‘Don’t steal this. If you do, it’s useless to you, so there’s no point.’ Students get the message and there is much less of a concern that these will disappear,” Kahl says.

The district also has plans to expand the SpectraLink 6000 system capabilities with text messaging in the future, something that Kahl says will be an excellent tool for the district.

“For my purposes, I find the SpectraLink Wireless Telephone awesome,” Kahl says. “It has made a tremendous impact on my communication with the schools.”

Learn More

Visit polycom.com to find out more about Polycom SpectraLink Wireless Telephones and other Polycom solutions and services.

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