



KONICA MINOLTA

Giving Shape to Ideas

USE CASE

WEST AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT GETS A MUCH NEEDED UPGRADE WITH KONICA MINOLTA INNOVATIONS

CHALLENGE: The West Aurora Public School District needed a refresh of multifunction printers (MFPs) in time for the new school year – what could stay and what needed to be replaced? In addition, there was a strong desire to reduce the amount of wasted paper, a significant budget item each year. Lastly, students required easy access to the printers through their ID cards, making for a more efficient process without the need for additional authorizations.

Don Ringlestein was faced with the daunting task of auditing the infrastructure of multifunction printers in a school district that encompasses 18 separate schools and administrative offices in time for the 2018-19 school year. His assessment involved a systematic approach in reviewing which MFPs needed replacement, versus what was still serviceable. As the Director of Technology for the West Aurora Public School District 129 in Illinois, about 42 miles southwest of Chicago, it was Don's responsibility to review the status of 156 printer/copiers across the District and make an informed, judicious call on how to proceed.

As a public school district, a formal request for proposals (RFP) was initiated to multiple vendors capable of delivering the right product(s) with the right level of service to keep these machines up and running daily. Konica Minolta, a long-time provider of printers and technology to the District, was selected as the best supplier to meet the RFP specifications.

Several factors had to be taken into consideration during this process. First and foremost, how to best meet the daily printing, copying, and scanning needs of a student body of 11,700 students, and nearly 1,800 faculty and administrative staff, in 10 elementary schools, four middle schools, three exceptional schools and, especially challenging, one central high school with 4,000 students.

In addition to determining which machines in an aging fleet of 156 MFPs needed refreshment, meaning they were nearing the end of their useful life and therefore needed to be replaced, the desire to reduce paper waste and ensure the security of sensitive documents was a significant consideration.

"We always enjoyed a very good working relationship with Konica Minolta over the years," said Ringlestein. "The company stepped up and aided us in this assessment in making a number of recommendations based on meeting the increasing demands of our students and faculty, while keeping us current with the latest technologies available," Ringlestein added.

SOLUTION: After completing a thorough assessment of the current 156 MFPs, the decision was made to purchase a total of 83 Konica Minolta bizhub®MFPs. All of the replaced printers were equipped with PaperCut software, which allows for the control and tracking of all print, copy, fax, and scanning operations, reducing paper waste in the process. Also, the Google Drive app was installed for easy storing and retrieving of document and video files. HID card users can now access Google from an MFP panel, as well.

In addition, five Zebra barcode readers were installed at kiosks throughout the District which allows students with barcode-based cards to access MFP devices.

"Amazingly, all the MFPs identified for replacement were installed within one month's time," said Ringlestein. "We were up and running by the time school was back in session in mid-August, much to everyone's delight."



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