

Deer Park Library



Deer Park Library and Deer Park Union Free School District collaborate to expand student mobile solution capabilities.

About Deer Park Library

The Deer Park Library has served the residents of the Deer Park School District since 1966. It is the mission of the library to enable access to the universe of informational, educational, cultural and recreational materials and services in all formats and technologies. The library dedicates itself to being responsive to the changing needs of the community.

About Deer Park Public Schools

The Deer Park Union Free School District enrolls approximately 4,500 students in the District's six schools. More than 750 employees, including 425 teachers, work for the district. The mission of the District, in conjunction with the community, is to provide every student exemplary programs of study within a safe, healthy and nurturing environment. It is their vision that their students achieve world class skills that will empower them to be highly competitive, successful, thoughtful, productive citizens in the global community.

The One-to-One Program

The Deer Park School District is located in the Town of Babylon, in Suffolk County, New York. In 2010 the District implemented a one-to-one mobile solution. The program was initiated at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School. In September, the fifth-grade students received a MacBook. Apple employees were on hand the day the laptops were distributed to assist with questions and help students log in. The very next day, students were learning from new technology lesson plans that had been prepared by their teachers.

Earlier that year, teachers were provided with their own MacBook and training so that they would have time to become acclimated with the new technology. This planning and preparation allowed them to hit the ground running when the students received their laptops that fall.

This past fall 2011, the students moved on to sixth grade at Robert Frost Middle School, taking their laptops with them. The new incoming fifth-graders were the second class to receive MacBooks. To date the program has been a success, and Technology Director Andrew Choi looks forward to expanding technology to additional students.

The Library Connection

Students are encouraged to take their MacBooks home to use for homework, study and school projects. However, not all students have wireless access available to them. The Deer Park Library is located directly across the street from JFK Intermediate School, providing a nearby workplace for students after school hours and on weekends.

Deer Park School District and Deer Park Public Library both use Custom Computer Specialists, Inc., a Hauppauge, New York based IT provider, for managed services and on-site technology support. The technology staff at the library and JFK saw an opportunity to expand the one-to-one program to an additional secure learning environment.



What's Next

Deer Park School District and Deer Park Public Library are working to further enhance the District's one-to-one MacBook program. As the school district continues to roll out MacBooks, the library is planning to extend network coverage outside of children's area to ensure that the students are not limited. Each year the students keep their MacBook, increasing their knowledge and expanding the program to upper grades.

Another next step for the library is not about technology, but about content. Gail Pepa explains, "We have so many resources we want the students to be aware of. We want to be sure they know the benefit of having a library card and accessing so much information."

Andrew Choi and Susan Bonner look forward to continued success as the program moves forward, which they attribute to a true collaboration between Deer Park School District, Deer Park Library and Custom Computer Specialists. "At no point since I have been here has anybody said no we can't make this happen," Andrew concluded. "It's been about the students. Giving them what they need."

The Results

Deer Park School District and Deer Park Public Library are both adapting to the new program. All stakeholders realize the advantages this technology provides to Deer Park students.

The students have immediate access within the library. They do not need assistance or have to wait in line to have their MacBooks set up. This enabling environment encourages students to work on their laptops. The library staff has enjoyed watching the students showing their parents and grandparents how they are using technology to learn.

Gail Pepa is aware of additional benefits. Students come to the library to work on a school project. When they log in, they have direct access to the library's web page, where they find a number of database resources. "Students are taking advantage of more in the library," Gail explained. "They are learning about new ways the library can help." The experience has made the library a hub for after-hours homework help and group projects."

What about results at JFK Intermediate School? Principal Susan Bonner is looking forward to reviewing the impact of the one-to-one program after the second year is complete. But over the past year, Ms. Bonner is already seeing an increase in reading and writing by the students in the program.

About Custom Computer Specialists, Inc.

Since 1979 Custom has been partnering with higher education institutions throughout the Northeast to maximize student achievement through the effective deployment of technology. We are committed to providing the technology that will make the 21st century classroom a reality.

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The Assessment

With the proximity of the two buildings, it was logical to give students the option to work at the library after school hours.

The library runs on a PC environment, and was not set up for students to access their network or printers with outside laptops. In addition, the library staff was not Mac familiar and found it challenging to support the students. Gail Pepa, Library Director advised, "We wanted to enable the library staff to help the students when they had "how to" questions about the MacBooks."

The key objectives were to enable the students to work effortlessly within the library while accessing the many resources and online databases available from the stand alone library PC stations.

The Solution

Deer Park School District subscribes to an Internet filter program. When a student leaves the school building and logs on to a remote wireless network, the filter program will work with the same restrictions as if they were in school.

The technical teams from Deer Park School District, Deer Park Public Library and Custom Computer Specialists met at the library to develop a project plan. Once the team understood the requirements, they were able to provide one-to-one student wireless access to the library. The open wireless was added to the children's area, with future expectations to expand coverage to the entire library.

The team leveraged security access policies over the network, protecting laptop and network integrity. Together, the technicians were able to load printer drivers on the MacBooks, allowing students to print at the library. The automatic wireless authentication allows the students to have immediate access to databases, research tools and online help centers.

To guarantee success of the project, the Deer Park Public Library is engaged in ongoing Apple training for their library staff as with all new technologies.



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