



Fort Dodge Community School District

Creating a 21st century learning environment

The Company

The Fort Dodge Community School District in Iowa is dedicated to serving the individual needs of each student from K – 12 in the Fort Dodge community and surrounding areas by providing students with opportunities that foster excellence and lifelong learning. The school district creates a dynamic learning environment that encourages students to reach their potential in academics, the visual and performing arts, athletics and the other activities offered by the schools. With such a highly qualified team of educators and curriculum, the school district continues to expand and must accommodate the growing needs of the community.

“OneNeck IT Solutions always kept our best interests in mind. They helped us find solutions that would support our already existing infrastructure, then went the extra mile to offer solutions that we never even thought to plan into our IT strategy.”

Jeremy Pearson
Supervisor of IT,
Fort Dodge Community School District

The Challenge

Fair Oaks Middle School (grades 5 and 6) and Phillips Middle School (grades 7 and 8) had been dealing with issues ranging from parking to security and insufficient space for expansion, while ongoing costs for maintenance and renovation were only getting higher. After an extensive analysis of both buildings, Fort Dodge Community School District made the choice to bring them together into a new middle school that had better accommodations for growth and a 21st century learning environment to help students stay competitive among their peers in the state of Iowa. The engineering and construction of the new facility was designed and coordinated to physically support and optimize the school environment; however, the challenges of creating and developing an IT infrastructure required another new blueprint entirely.

The goal was to provide a 21st century learning and working environment with advanced Information Technology that would create a scalable, robust and cost-effective network in the new Fort Dodge Middle School. “We required a network that could support the work of the staff and the education of the students,” explains Pearson. “The administration relies heavily on technology for their daily operations, and the teachers and students depend on it in the classroom. We needed it to be reliable and robust.”

With 1,100 students and 400 employees moving into the new Fort Dodge Middle School, Pearson knew that a secure and flexible network infrastructure for the school meant having a sufficient amount of ports, virtual desktops with reliable coverage and capacity, Power over Ethernet (PoE) protocols, and most importantly, a network switch series that could support high-density connectivity. He had the blueprint laid out, but it was a matter of bringing in the hardware and software professionals to optimize the solutions for an IT infrastructure that needed to nearly double in size from the original layout for the separate schools. Pearson reached out to OneNeck® IT Solutions for help.

The OneNeck IT Solutions Answer

When Pearson approached OneNeck with the plans for the new school, he knew he wanted HP to replace the aging network infrastructure. HP delivers innovative products and creates solutions that are practical, usable and valuable for its customers at an affordable price. OneNeck and HP worked together to design and develop a framework that would be the best fit for the project requirements. A secure IT infrastructure that ensures data and resources are accessible, available and scalable meant an optimized learning and working environment for both staff and students. After a thorough and comprehensive IT assessment, OneNeck leveraged advanced PoE technology to provide high connectivity for networked devices. With high-availability services and reliable power, the school can leverage a robust hardware environment that supports high-performance processes at every level. In addition, OneNeck and HP decided to deploy HP 8200 zl and 5400 zl Switch Series into the new network for advanced intelligent switches that allow for a scalable yet granular framework. This solution also supports the most demanding networking features such as



Fort Dodge School District Summary

Organization	Fort Dodge Community School District
Industry	K-12 education
Business Challenges	Provide solid and reliable network infrastructure to support existing converged services in a new middle school facility
User Environment	Over 400 users Five Locations Over 65,000 patients
Application	Microsoft Windows Servers Microsoft Exchange Mitel VoIP Avigilon Video Security Johnson Controls Building Card Access
Technical Environment	10 facilities located throughout Fort Dodge HP 8200 & 5400 Chassis Network Switches HP 2910 Edge Switches HP P4500 Storage Area Network HP DL385 G8 Servers VMware Server Virtualization

Quality of Service (QoS) and security. With the expertise and experience of OneNeck and the IT hardware of HP, it was the perfect partnership to provide the best possible solution.

The benefits of working with OneNeck are no secret among schools in the region. "I heard about OneNeck from other school districts in the area that used them for virtualization, storage, backup and disaster recovery services. They have a reputation among the North Central Iowa school districts for their customer service and reliability. I chose them as our IT services provider back in 2010 and continue to work with them today," said Pearson. "They understood the importance of technology in education. They didn't just drop off the hardware and make sure it worked. They looked at the overall IT strategy and made recommendations I hadn't even

The Benefits

OneNeck and HP provided the hardware and software that was needed for a scalable, robust and cost-effective network in the new Fort Dodge Middle School; however, OneNeck went above and beyond with IT consulting to ensure the infrastructure would be optimized for the long-term goals and IT strategy of the school district. "HP recognizes the importance of a partner like OneNeck who focuses on delivering outstanding value to the customer," said David Eichenauer, HP Partner Business Manager. "HP heavily relies on top-tier partners like OneNeck to invest in training and certifications in order to deliver cutting-edge solutions to our mutual customers and OneNeck always hits the mark. That's why OneNeck is an HP Platinum partner – our highest designation."

Since leveraging the advanced technology and professional expertise of OneNeck and HP, Fort Dodge Middle School has created a better learning and working environment for the staff and students. The students and teachers have access to advanced technology that enhances the learning experience in classrooms, while the administrative staff is able to streamline communication and collaboration for an efficient and productive workplace. With solutions that guarantee data protection and a secure school and work environment, Fort Dodge Middle School can worry less about managing IT and focus more on maintaining the high-quality education and work environment that continues to keep the Fort Dodge School District a leader in the region.

With the technology provided by HP and OneNeck, Fort Dodge Middle School now has the resources and capabilities to carry out its commitment to the students it serves. Fort Dodge Middle School is creating lifelong learners who believe in themselves by providing bigger opportunities for a brighter future.

About OneNeck IT Solutions

OneNeck IT Solutions LLC offers hybrid IT solutions including cloud and hosting solutions, managed services, enterprise application management, advanced IT services, IT hardware and top-tier data centers in Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon and Wisconsin. OneNeck's team of technology professionals manage secure, world-class, hybrid IT infrastructures and applications for businesses around the country.

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