

CASE STUDY: DELIVERING SOLID CONNECTIONS THAT EMPOWER STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

Mirazon partners with CommScope RUCKUS® to deliver unparalleled user experience to Louisville's historic Presentation Academy School for Girls.

Overview

Historic Presentation Academy is a Louisville, Kentucky Catholic all-girls high school that has been around since the 1830s. But thanks to a 14-year partnership with Mirazon and nearly a decade of working with CommScope RUCKUS®, Presentation Academy's network stays modern and incredibly manageable. A rapidly evolving student body and increasing bandwidth demands pose an ongoing challenge for schools like Presentation Academy. Years ago, the school's existing solutions were older, inconsistent, and unmanageable. The task of addressing it all fell to Paula Samuels, who calls herself a "one-woman operation" in her department at the school.



Samuels started off using the school's existing solution from a leading networking vendor. While she was enterprising in her problem-solving, the overall configuration just wasn't working to meet students' bandwidth demands. Samuels knew that a better solution was crucial. And more importantly, she knew she could rely on Mirazon to provide support in finding a solid, reliable network solution.

CASE STUDY: Mirazon partners with CommScope RUCKUS®

The Mirazon Partnership and CommScope RUCKUS® Solutions:

The school originally connected with Mirazon through their existing relationship with Spalding University, one of Presentation Academy's longtime strategic partners. Samuels trusted Mirazon to help her mitigate the pressure of sorting through and troubleshooting the existing solutions on her own. She also knew she wanted to partner with Mirazon for the ongoing support and management they could provide as new solutions were put in place. Mirazon immediately provided expertise that Samuels needed, suggesting RUCKUS® APs to replace the older mixture of existing hardware. These upgrades would also help support a BYOD initiative the school had in place, providing maximum connectivity to students across the school.

"Spalding (University) partners with Presentation Academy to provide college credit and AP courses for our students, and they have been working with Mirazon for a really long time," Samuels said of the context around the partnership. "We had a relationship with Mirazon that I knew would yield simplicity. The setup of adding new APs and controllers was basic. But the level of support, ease of management, and monitoring they provide really helps us keep things running smoothly."

Mirazon came in initially with a low number of RUCKUS® APs, adding units as needed for a total of seven RUCKUS® switches and 21 APs today. Over time, all other manufacturers were phased out as the school enjoyed great reliability from the RUCKUS® hardware they were adding. All hardware is managed through a RUCKUS® SmartZone 100 controller. Over the years-long partnership, Mirazon and RUCKUS® have worked directly with Presentation Academy to secure State, Local, and Education (SLED) and E-Rate pricing. This helps make ongoing improvements affordable for the school.

"Mirazon helped us with paperwork and advised us on the next steps to ensure that we could afford the technologies we needed," Samuels said. "The bandwidth and connectivity improvements we get from these APs and switches is truly incredible considering the price point for the upgrades."

Mirazon helped Presentation Academy keep its equipment list minimal in size, yet maximally effective. Because RUCKUS® APs have three times the coverage of the average competitor AP, they provide 40 percent less AP density.

In 2018, the school launched a 1:1 program, which included switching students over to uniform Surface Go devices. The change provided a consistent learning experience across the entire student body. Another new change for the school was in 2021, when Presentation Academy secured Category 2 E-Rate funding. With this funding the Presentation Academy team was able to complete the installation and configuration for two new switches and 16 APs, expanding the network and providing additional support in their goal of improving day-to-day lessons and student life.



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The Results:

Mirazon performed the installation and setup on all components, but it didn't end there. Today, Mirazon supports Samuels and her school as the go-to management partner keeping their network running securely and efficiently. Students are connected and immersed in seamless learning across the campus, and Samuels says her job is much easier these days.

"The thing I love about RUCKUS® is that these solutions just *work*," Samuels said. "When the engineers at Mirazon suggested RUCKUS® for our school, we trusted them and have never had an equipment failure to deal with." Another benefit of working with Mirazon, Samuels says, is how promptly any issues are addressed. In fact, when one product required a replacement, Mirazon and RUCKUS® worked together to overnight the device to Presentation Academy. Installation was lightning-fast, avoiding outages that could have impacted student learning.

"We are so pleased with the upgrades and ongoing management support we have from Mirazon," Samuels said. "Mirazon and RUCKUS® have made it so that our school can afford a high-performing network. Our students feel the impact they made every day when they are learning with reliable connectivity."

Network connections are always being measured to standards of consistent, reliable performance. This is especially true in high-density educational settings, where functionality can impact students' success. Mirazon is uniquely prepared to help customers achieve their goals and meet the requirements of their environment.



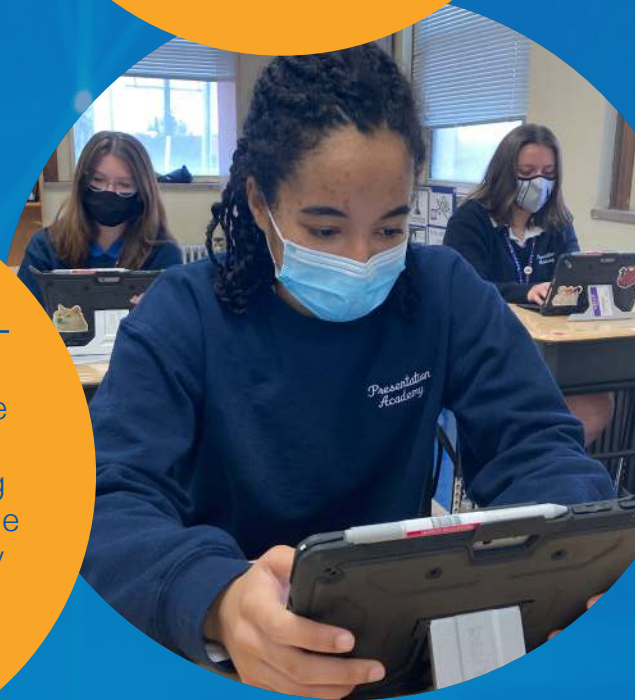
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To learn more about how Mirazon can deliver cost-effective, simple, and reliable connectivity to your school or network, visit mirazon.com.