Seabury Hall

College Prep School Powers Wireless Network to Bolster Classroom Instruction

About Seabury Hall

Seabury Hall is located in a beautiful setting in Makawao, Hawaii on the island of Maui. The college prep school, offering courses for students in grades 6 through 12, is an independent school affiliated with the Episcopal Church. Its mission is to prepare students for college and university, as well as develop mind, body, and soul, and encourage students to be responsible community members.

With more than 450 students and 50 faculty members, Seabury Hall was named a Blue Ribbon School by the US Department of Education. Students at Seabury set exceptional standards in academic, athletic and artistic fields, with local, state and national recognition in math, science and world languages.

The Challenge

Back in 2000, Seabury added a few consumer-based wireless access points in a few classrooms, and when the off-the-shelf solution was not robust enough, the school adopted a Cisco network in 2004. Over time, the complexity of managing and scaling the existing system became too time-consuming and tedious and was no longer feasible nor cost-effective. The IT team was spending a great amount of time to make any changes and began to look at alternative solutions to enable central management and accommodate greater density and coverage.

While not a 1:1 school, Seabury does encourage BYOD and more and more students bring laptops and other devices. Now, the school has a strategy in place they have termed, "BYOB", Bring Yours or Borrow, equipping classrooms with a set of Chromebooks for students to borrow during the day or to use personal devices. With more classroom activities integrating technology, a reliable network was absolutely essential to enable teacher buy-in and to provide a seamless classroom experience.

The Solution

The IT team at Seabury first heard about Aerohive at the annual ISTE conference, and the Aerohive architecture and its ability to make network changes, updates and configurations from the cloud appealed to them immediately. Seabury took at a look at solutions from Aruba and Meraki but settled on an Aerohive solution because it was more intuitive to manage and easy to deploy. Seabury also recognized that Aerohive understood the education market very well and would be committed to long-term investment in this sector.

Seabury deploys Aerohive AP230 access points throughout its campus, along with HiveManager Online for cloud-based network management. Recently the school has acquired several Aerohive switches for testing and may consider replacing its existing switches with Aerohive in the near future. While the IT team has not had major issues with the network, it has found the troubleshooting and reporting tools in HiveManager to be very helpful, and appreciates the deeper understanding of network usage that it allows them to gain.

Students, faculty, and guests connect to the network with separate SSIDs, and additional access points are set up on campus for special events as needed. Seabury students are heavy users of Google apps and streaming video.

The school hosts a large craft fair each year and vendors are given Wi-Fi access to use tools like Square for purchases and sales. A TEDxYouth@SeaburyHall event is also hosted on campus and speakers are given access to the network for conference use. A new performing arts center was built in 2012 and Wi-Fi is used at the box office with the ability to pay for tickets with iPads.

Why Aerohive

- Robust and reliable wireless network solution for blended learning classroom environments and emerging IT requirements
- Distributed network architecture and cloud-management enable seamless deployment and management
- Aerohive's commitment to education gives confidence in evolving advancements, future scalability, and customized features
- Aerohive switches and access points can be managed from a single-pane-of glass