

Case study

Quakertown Community School District



HP ProBook Notebooks help students learn in flexible, innovative ways—from virtually anywhere

Industry

K-12 education

Objective

Enable reliable, high quality access to online learning tool

Approach

Deploy HP ProBook Notebooks to every student and teacher in elementary, middle and high schools

IT matters

- HP ProBook Notebooks with cost-effective AMD accelerated processing units deliver performance and portability
- Competitive price point and low maintenance demands

Business matters

- Real-time, flexible collaboration aids learning
- Online collaboration and feedback means less paper waste
- Significantly reduces version control issues
- Productivity increases with mobility solutions



“The HP ProBook Notebooks work extremely well, HP service is top-notch, and the notebooks have a solid price point. Overall, we are confident that we are getting a tremendous value for every taxpayer dollar that we invest with HP.”

– Tom Murray, director of Technology and Cyber Education, Quakertown Community School District

Educators who want to equip today’s students to meet the challenges of the future are providing new ways for children to learn. When the Quakertown Community School District undertook a bold new initiative to provide each student with the technology it would need to interact, engage and collaborate in boundary-pushing ways, they turned to a collaboration with HP. HP ProBook Notebooks offer the durable, reliable, high-quality power and performance that students and teachers require—with the cost efficiency that helps keep public sector budgets on track.

Located roughly an hour north of Philadelphia along the Liberty Bell Trail, the Quakertown Community School District's (QCSD) mission is to promote its 5,500 students to become lifelong learners who are able to pursue academic excellence, exhibit personal responsibility, provide service to the community, and respect oneself, others and the environment. Four years ago, the District undertook an initiative to provide students with access to learning 24/7.

“The HP ProBook Notebooks with AMD accelerated processing give us a powerful, reliable and cost-effective mobile computing option for both students and teachers. The ProBooks enable real-time collaboration and the durability easily withstands the rigors of student life.”

– Tom Murray, director of Technology and Cyber Education, Quakertown Community School District

“We want to ensure that learning doesn't stop when the school bell rings,” explains Tom Murray, director of Technology and Cyber Education, Quakertown Community School District.

Choose the best path

The QCSD K-12 student body attends six elementary schools, two middle schools, and a comprehensive senior high school. Recognizing the rapid changes that are occurring in all facets of society, the District prepares students for college and careers through innovative learning programs. Currently, a 1:1 initiative aims to pair each student with a technology device. “The Cyber Learning program provides complete versatility for any combination of on- and off-site learning,” Murray explains. “Students can choose between traditional brick-and-mortar in-class learning and online courses to meet their specific schedule, style preference and social interaction needs.”

Online courses are delivered via a learning management system (LMS) software package.

The LMS allows instructors to manage distribution of materials, create content and assignments, and administer communications and other aspects of instruction for their courses.

But to make the program work well, QCSD needed the right tools. When the Cyber Learning program was first launched in 2009, the District purchased low-cost notebooks that quickly proved inadequate to the task in terms of quality, reliability and even physical appearance and durability. “The competitor's notebooks looked like plastic toys. This perception made it hard for the students to treat them carefully. The quality just wasn't there and we were very disappointed. So we moved forward and looked at HP,” says Joe Kuzo, supervisor of Technology.

HP ProBooks enable educators' vision

Nearly three years ago, QCSD standardized on HP ProBook Notebooks with cost-effective AMD accelerated processing units for students. Teachers received HP ProBook models with Intel processors. The HP ProBooks offer both students and educators the performance and portability they need to collaborate anytime, from anywhere. The durable construction also holds up to the rigors of student life, but Kuzo adds that even the appearance of the notebooks makes a difference. “Because the HP Notebooks look so professional, the students' perception is much different. They actually treat this level of quality with a lot more respect and are more careful than with cheaper alternates.”

“HP provides a cost-effective yet very high-quality set of resources that is helping us to transform instruction in the classroom and beyond.”

– Tom Murray, director of Technology and Cyber Education, Quakertown Community School District

The District has been rolling out the ProBooks throughout its schools: Last year, they completed a notebook refresh in the middle schools, purchasing more than 600 HP ProBook Notebooks and added 500 new ProBooks in the elementary schools.

Customer at a glance

Application

Online and in-classroom learning

Hardware

- HP ProBook Notebook PC with AMD processors
- HP ProBook Notebook PC
- HP LaserJet Pro 400 Series Printers
- HP BladeSystem Enclosure with HP blade servers
- HP 3PAR StoreServ 7000 Storage

The benefits of the HP ProBooks are tangible and numerous. Real-time collaboration aids learning by encouraging and enabling students to work together in more flexible ways and speeds student/teacher feedback. Version control issues are a thing of the past as work is done simultaneously by students and teachers instead of on hard copies of documents. And, there are no longer stacks and stacks of paper for teachers and students to manage—a change that saves time, money, headaches and the environment.

“HP has streamlined the entire technology environment at QCS. They are dedicated to help us achieve our goals and find new ways to help students collaborate and learn.”

— Joe Kuzo, supervisor of Technology,
Quakertown Community School District

“Prior to the HP ProBooks and LMS, all schoolwork was manual and paper-based. Students would complete their work and teachers would provide feedback in written form,” Murray explains. “That paper could then get lost in the bottom of a backpack. Transparency is key to learning over time—and now, teacher feedback is captured in the document and a record is saved. Anyone can go back and refer to it.”

Another big improvement? Loss of productivity due to illness or travel—by either teachers or students—is dramatically reduced. With the notebooks, learning can continue from

virtually anywhere, without significant interruption. So now, if a student isn't feeling well there's no need to come to school and risk spreading germs; the student can simply log on, access the assignment and stay on top of schoolwork. Similarly, a teacher can continue coursework and student interaction from home or on the road.

Broadening the HP benefit

Kuzo says that as schoolwork continues to move to the digital world, it is naturally eliminating the need for high volumes of printing. However, in office settings that require color printing, the IT team is installing HP LaserJet Pro 400 series printers to produce professional-quality color documents quickly and easily while saving paper and energy. QCS has also recently purchased a HP BladeSystem, the world's most advanced blade server infrastructure designed to drive innovation and eliminate sprawl, along with HP 3PAR StoreServ Storage that delivers the same industry-leading architecture. “With the HP solutions, it's easy to expand as our needs change and grow,” he adds.

Murray and Kuzo also reflect that when undertaking an effort of this significance and value, strong, trusted relationships are absolutely critical. “The integrity of our HP sales team, the quality of the interactions and the confidence that we have in knowing that HP is truly working with us is incredibly important to us,” Murray says. “It makes all the difference.”

Sign up for updates
hp.com/go/getupdated



Share with colleagues



Rate this document

© Copyright 2014 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. The information contained herein is subject to change without notice. The only warranties for HP products and services are set forth in the express warranty statements accompanying such products and services. Nothing herein should be construed as constituting an additional warranty. HP shall not be liable for technical or editorial errors or omissions contained herein.

AMD is a trademark of Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.

Intel is a trademark of Intel Corporation in the U.S. and other countries.

4AA5-0725ENW, January 2014

