

Case Study

Lawton-Chiles Middle School



Lawton-Chiles Middle School is a public 6-8th grade school part of Miami-Dade County

Public Schools located in Miami, Florida.

Organization Type

- Public Middle School

Student

- 625-700

Faculty & Staff

- 35-45

Principal Nelson Izquierdo, Jr. heads Lawton-Chiles Middle School in Miami, Florida. LCMS is a Title I school serving a multi-ethnic school population that consists of 625 students from a diverse economic, educational and racial population of Unincorporated Miami-Dade County. Economically Disadvantaged students account for 81% of the students, Students with Disabilities (SWD) account for 13%, English Language Learners (ELL) 11%, and 6% Gifted students. Lawton-Chiles Middle School is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) is a Member of Magnet Schools Of a America with six themes of study including: Careers & Professions, International Programs, Liberal Arts, Mathematics, Science, & Technology, Visual & Performing Arts, VPREP-Virtual Offerings. Lawton-Chiles is also a Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Program site bringing students Cambridge University curricula infused at appropriate paces for core classes through the iPrep Mathematics program, use of smart-boards, laptops, and research based computer programs. LCMS is also distributing HP Elite Pad 900 tablets running with Windows 8.1 to 7th grade students as part of a Miami-Dade County \$63 Million dollar lease agreement from Bank of America.

Challenges

Lawton-Chiles Middle School's goals were to establish a BYOD and Blended Learning Initiative that would enhance the learning experience of students and teachers by fostering communication and collaboration between all users. One of the challenges LCMS continues to face is the decline in student enrollment due to the amount of high performing students being recruited to attend area charter schools. Prior to selecting PassTheNotes, in order to attract students to Lawton-Chiles Middle School, the District and school administration established a Cambridge Magnet program whereby higher performing students were able to receive accelerated classes for the core subjects which ultimately pave the avenue for advanced/college preparatory classes at the high school level and University of Cambridge Certification. Currently there are 178 students enrolled in the Magnet Program for 6th and 7th grade. Additionally, the District founded an iPrep Mathematics program in the middle schools where digitally native students are able to learn and participate in a math community, which involves digital learning and teacher instruction from a digital perspective.

Lawton-Chiles Middle School wanted to implement a BYOD Initiative and was looking for a platform that could organize and house educational as well as school and district materials. The primary focus was to foster collaboration and communication between users.

PassTheNotes met with institutional stakeholders to determine the roadmap based on objectives set by the school. The process involved an evaluation of Lawton-Chiles Middle School technology, personnel, and training & professional development. PassTheNotes designed a customized roadmap tailored to their specific specifications.

Solution

How did the organization reach the decision to implement PassTheNotes?

The decision to implement PassTheNotes was a top down decision by Nelson Izquierdo, Jr. and his administrative team consisting of:

- Assistant Principal – Ilia Molina, Ed.D

How did the organization schedule implementation of the solution?

The PassTheNotes implementation and training teams customized and developed a training program designed specifically for the administrative, IT, instructional, and student users at Lawton-Chiles Middle School. Trainings consisted of a year-long PassTheNotes format of Plan, Teach, and Network. With the combined efforts of the Lawton-Chiles Middle School team and PassTheNotes, LCMS implemented the PTN phases of Continuous Training and Professional Development workshops beginning in the fall of the 2014 school year. The training program consisted of a train-the-trainer program, continuous training program, and a tailored professional development plan. Alongside PassTheNotes trainers, workshops were facilitated via web-based, face-to face, and email based training and support.

Benefits of Implementation of PTN solution:

The PassTheNotes platform provided a blended-learning solution that enabled Lawton-Chiles Middle School to in a safe environment, organize content, and distribute materials school wide. Users were provided with a cloud-based solution to upload and share content along with features such as a calendar, an assignment's portal, discussion board, and ability to communicate via text and video chat. The platform and training program furnished Lawton-Chiles Middle School teachers and administrative staff the capability and know-how to create a customized educational environment that supported their specific site initiatives such as the MDCPS digital Civics course support, distribution of documentation, professional learning communities, standards initiatives, project-based learning, and virtual teaching.

This Case Study has been sourced from PassTheNotes, a strategic NEC Partner. For more information on this case, contact k-12@necam.com or HigherEd@necam.com.

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