



## OUR TEAM OFFERS CUSTOM SOLUTIONS TO PREPARE AND PROTECT YOUR SCHOOL SYSTEM

### SERVICE OFFERINGS



#### SECURITY SOLUTIONS

Access control, video surveillance, intrusion prevention and monitoring systems.



#### TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Data and fiber optic cabling, integration and monitoring solutions, mass notification systems.



#### ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Preconstruction, prefabrication, electrical construction, industrial automation controls, EV charging stations and more.



#### FENCING

Custom fencing combined with perimeter security solutions including; barrier gate operators, fence operators and controllers, perimeter sensors and security integrations for extended functionality.

Proudly providing solutions for:

**SCHOOLS**  
**MANUFACTURERS**  
**HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS**  
**GOVERNMENT ENTITIES**

...and more.

Our organization was founded in

**2014**

Incorporated in

**2018**

We offer technology solutions for all of your security and safety needs. Our company focuses on installing, configuring, designing, and programming numerous types of new and existing technology to keep your facility secure.

# ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT EXPANDS IP VIDEO SYSTEM TO COMBAT VANDALISM, BOOST AWARENESS



As a way to address rising vandalism such as broken windows and recurring playground fires at elementary schools, the Anchorage School District began installing and experimenting with video security and surveillance systems.

### **The Challenge**

With a limited budget, the district started a program that included the installation of four to six cameras at elementary schools, six to ten cameras at middle schools, and 10 to 15 cameras at the larger high schools. These initial systems comprised a mix of analog cameras with on-site digital video recorders (DVR) monitoring and recording.

“After we installed the first sets of cameras, the systems quickly received a lot of positive use, and we started getting requests for expanded capabilities,” said Kelly Kass, Project Manager, Anchorage School District. “With the cameras, people could monitor areas of the school they were not able to see before. This helped users realize there was a lot they were not seeing.”

### **The Solution**

With the initial installations the district saw a reduction in vandalism and they were able to record several events that helped with identifying and apprehending suspects. However, it was the overall increased situational awareness that deemed the initial test a success. Administrators decided to install more cameras and build a more capable video management system. Over the course of the next few years, the district deployed cameras at several more school sites.

After trying to gain more functionality from their analog/DVR-based video system, the district contacted Anixter and asked if they could suggest a path to move forward with migrating to an IP-based system. Anixter had been involved in the district’s cabling infrastructure for several years, and additionally saw success in Milestone-based IP video systems with other customers, including another school district.

“Our suggestion was to go with Milestone. But knowing what challenges the district had faced with the proprietary analog system, we suggested they do a side-by-side evaluation of the top three VMS platforms that we worked with,” said Bob Thibault, RCDD, Alaska Territory Manager, Anixter. “This was a controlled evaluation that lasted for several months. We helped make sure they used the same integrator and the exact same cameras in each system. After reviewing and meeting with the different schools and having the principals visit the alternate schools, the district unanimously decided on the Milestone platform.”

## The Advantages

The Milestone VMS was selected based on a range of included features, ease of use, devices supported, technical support, performance and cost evaluation. Once Milestone was officially chosen as the VMS, the district requested bids from the local authorized Milestone integrators. Siemens Industry Inc. Building Technologies Division was the integrator of choice.

The district then decided to have a single integrator perform all the camera programming and configuration, regardless of which contractor was doing the camera installation. Siemens was awarded a contract to support all cameras and installations for Milestone at all the Anchorage schools.

Since then the district has installed 50 Milestone systems. As funding becomes available, they continue to upgrade and expand more schools to Milestone VMS.

“At this point, every school in the district has some sort of camera system,” said Kass. “We have the older systems still in place in about half the schools, but as IP cameras continue to get better and less expensive, we look at new models to meet our needs in specific areas. Perhaps long-range zoom cameras and some specialty cameras for monitoring playgrounds and parking lots will be considered.”

## School District Profile

Anchorage School District serves the South-central Alaska communities of Anchorage, Eagle River, Chugiak and Girdwood. Encompassing almost 2,000 square miles and with more than 48,500 students across 130 schools and programs, the Anchorage School District is among the largest and most geographically dispersed districts in the country.

## Fights, Tech Theft, Costly Fires, Broken Windows

Within the Anchorage School District, playground fires are a real problem. The elementary school playgrounds make use of shredded rubber mulch as a surface under the playground equipment. The surface is soft, durable, weather resistant and made of recycled sources, but unfortunately it burns (if intentionally lit), and the Anchorage School District has had three or four playground fires each summer since use of the mulch began. Most fires are vandalism, and one documented fire was accidental. Each fire costs the district about \$100,000 to replace or repair the playground.

The use of cameras has helped identify the cause of fires and identification of suspects. With proper evidence restitution from the suspect is possible, and the district is looking toward more capable cameras for addressing this unique requirement.

Kass explained that at middle schools and high schools, there is a lot of equipment and technology within reach. The use of video has helped reduce theft and aided in narrowing down the students involved. Video monitoring also alerts officials to large student gatherings, and provides the ability to notice students or visitors in restricted areas.

**"VANDALISM IS THE ULTIMATE REASON FOR THE VIDEO SYSTEMS. BUT AS THINGS HAVE PLAYED OUT AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL, WE'VE HAD A GOOD DEAL OF USE IN ACCURATELY IDENTIFYING STUDENTS INVOLVED IN FIGHTS, EVEN VINDICATING THE NON-AGGRESSOR. WITH VIDEO, WE CAN QUICKLY SEE WHO THE INSTIGATOR WAS AND ACT ACCORDINGLY."**

KELLY KASS  
PROJECT MANAGER, ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

## **Training and Connectivity**

An important component to the district's success with the video system involved Milestone's ability to provide on-site user training. Milestone certified instructors provided detailed training and instruction for about 100 Anchorage School District administrators, security professionals, and IT personnel. The goal was to make the district as effective and self-supportive as possible, right from the beginning.

"One of the beauties of the new system is that it's very easy to access the video, said Kass. "The old DVR system was very cumbersome, but the Milestone VMS is very intuitive. Anytime users have a question, they access the Help Menu, and answer their own questions. The system is so intuitive, we get very few calls."

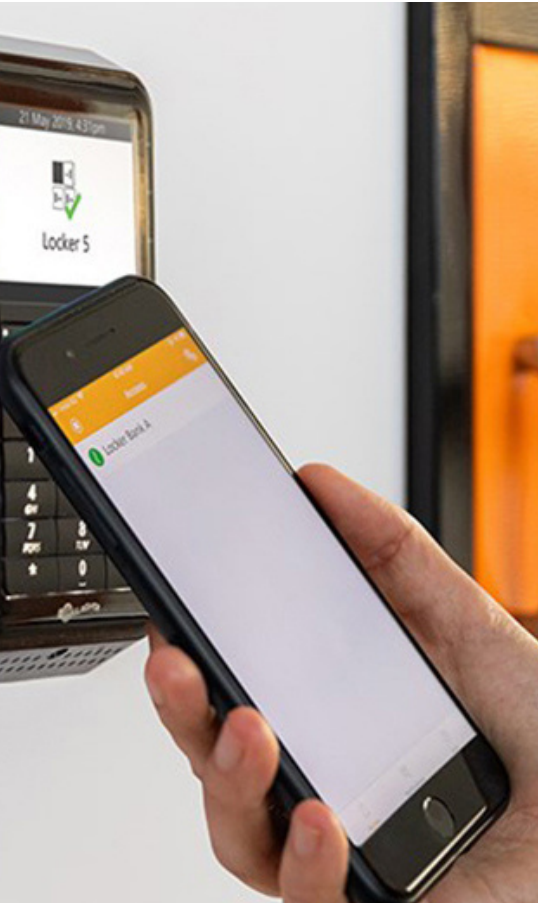
To address bandwidth issues, the systems are leveraging Milestone Federated Architecture for all the school servers, keeping all the recorded video on site but allowing administrators to access the connected systems from a single central location, no matter where they are on the network.

Over the last three years, the district has deployed 1,270 Milestone device licenses with a total projected scope targeted at 2,700 cameras in the future. The district's policy is to keep recorded video for 30 days with individual schools archiving events as needed. Anchorage School District uses Cisco IP network components, so all switches are Cisco standardized and all district IT personnel are Cisco certified.



# HARRISBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

Keeping students safe and secure - case study



One of the fastest growing districts in the upper Midwest of the United States, Harrisburg in South Dakota educates almost 4000 students across eight schools. Gallagher Command Centre was selected as the only solution that could meet the district's security requirements, and in October 2015, these security measures were put to the test when the local high school was the target of a shooting.

The incident resulted in one staff member being injured but was prevented from escalating further due to Gallagher's central management platform, Command Centre, being activated by staff. Logs from the incident confirm that from the time the emergency button was pressed, it took just four seconds for Command Centre to lock all outside doors, notify district authorities, and limit building access to emergency responders only.

Gallagher's access control solution offers educational institutions around the world a combination of enhanced operational efficiency and cost savings.

James Straatmeyer, Chief Executive Officer of Integrated Technology & Security, partnered with Gallagher for the installation of Harrisburg districts security solution. James says, "Gallagher Command Centre was directly involved with placing physical barriers between an active

gunman and hundreds of high school students filling 37 classrooms. As far as I'm aware, there's no other product on the market that has the capabilities and integration solutions for protecting students and staff to the extent of Gallagher Command Centre." This type of security alert is of increasing concern for many educational institutions, prompting renewed focus on daily security protocols.

### The Gallagher Solution

Essential to providing an optimum learning environment for students, is ensuring their safety and security - a responsibility the district of Harrisburg takes extremely seriously. Key to this was partnering with a security solutions provider that understood the specific needs of educational institutions, with the flexibility to employ customized features that could be tailored to Harrisburg's particular requirements.

The system needed to be fully integrated, scalable and expandable, digitally based, user-friendly and crucially, to assist and not replace, existing manual security procedures. Gallagher and South Dakota based Integrated Technology & Security, completed the initial installation within three weeks. Since its introduction, the system has been under continual expansion.

## Future-proofing

The access control system originally installed in 2013, fulfilled the region's initial security requirements, however a period of growth prompted the need for an enhanced system that could protect the increasing number of students. Some of the features of Harrisburg's upgraded security solution included:

- Outlook calendar integration, to enable scheduling of access for special events
- Intercom / phone integration, to control doors from a desktop icon or smartphone
- Strobe light control to provide lockdown notifications in hearing impaired areas such as deaf education, shops and the gym
- Intercom integration for lockdown announcements.

Command Centre provides enterprise level lockdown controls which limit access to buildings, control fire doors, and send notifications, while providing an audit trail and video alerts.

Usability is a highlight of Command Centre, offering access for all levels of personnel. Initially, only office and administrative staff were trained in the use of lockdown systems, but as the Command Centre's lockdown features have developed, all staff members can now control access in individual school buildings. Once a lockdown has been activated, a notification is automatically issued to district authorities, immediately alerting emergency services if required.

## Campus Security - A Growing Concern

The security incident in 2015 strongly supported Harrisburg district's decision to install a sophisticated access control system to protect its faculty, staff and students. At a time when concern over campus security is rising, an understanding of the benefits of an advanced, interactive security network is essential, and in some cases, lifesaving. Gallagher's security solution offers educational institutions around the world a combination of enhanced operational efficiency and cost savings. Command Centre's software provides a powerful and versatile feature set, enabling system operators to configure, monitor and control their unique security system.

**"AS FAR AS I'M AWARE, THERE'S NO OTHER PRODUCT ON THE MARKET THAT HAS THE CAPABILITIES AND INTEGRATION SOLUTIONS FOR PROTECTING STUDENTS AND STAFF TO THE EXTENT OF GALLAGHER COMMAND CENTRE."**

AMES STRAATMEYER, INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY & SECURITY