

Case Study: Growing Charter School Gains Long-Term Technology Partnership

Capital City Public Charter School, Washington, D.C.



Customer Profile

Established: 2000

City / State:
Washington, D. C.

Grades: PK - 12

Enrollment: > 980

School Type:
Public Charter

Implemented: 2016-17

“ *The ethos of the company was really important. Rediker’s **credibility** and **character** really spoke to us.* ”

- Wil Hawk
Director of School Information Systems



School Website:
www.ccpcs.org

Solution:
AdminPlus SIS, Admissions Plus Pro, RediSite, QuikLunch, and Atrium Library

- Benefits:**
- An affordable, centralized and secure data management system on the cloud.
 - Clever compatibility: enrollment data from AdminPlus is securely synced with all applications.
 - A responsive website that is easy to edit to keep families engaged and informed.
 - Readily available technical support and training.

The Challenge

As a free public school that operates independently of the local school system, Capital City Public Charter School develops its own curriculum, manages its own budget, secures and manages its own facility, and determines its own staffing model and personnel policies. The public charter school also faces the daunting task of managing a system for collecting and storing student demographic data, tracking and communicating with newly matched students, engaging with parents, and maintaining a professional website that is mobile friendly.

As the school grew from a small PK-8 school to a PK – 12 educational institute serving nearly 1,000 students, a student information system that could handle all of these tasks was vital. The school secured an SIS system that handled their needs at the time. Capital City relied on this system to manage much of its operations but when support for the software was no longer available, the school realized they needed to search for a new integrated cloud-hosted solution.

The Solution

Because of the inauspicious experience with their former vendor, Capital City sought out a new SIS company that would provide them with stability and a long-term partnership. They also needed a school management solution that could meet all of their student data collection and enrollment needs, and satisfy their Mac-based infrastructure.

A team with representation across all functional areas of the school was formed and a rigorous evaluation process began in early 2015. The team scrutinized each potential vendor's credentials and created a grid to track system functionality, sustainability and to standardize processes. Wil Hawk, Director of School Information Systems, managed a substantial amount of the legwork, researching different platforms, gaining buy-in and soliciting feedback from key stakeholders. Hawk knew that the system they would ultimately choose would run a considerable amount of the school's operations and affect their entire user community.

Working with a non-profit technology consultant organization, an RFI (Request for Information) was issued to identify potential software providers. Hawk's team looked at nearly 100 different products initially, and then narrowed that number to 30. Since there are distinct lower, middle and high school programs - each with its own identity, space, principal and staff - the needs of each group had to be addressed.

The grid was further broken down to divide priorities into 'required' versus 'desired'. Among their priorities was a model that could handle state reporting, that could integrate with a suite of products, and that could be customized where needed. Another essential element was a modernized, responsive school website. Because the school's student population is multilingual, with 50% of that being Spanish-speaking, having a website for both English and Spanish speakers was imperative.

When the final two contenders demonstrated their products to the team, the deciding factors came down to three. "The ethos of the company was really important," Hawk stated. "Rediker's credibility and character really spoke to us." In addition, the interface was friendlier than its competitor and the training model more flexible, he said.

The Results

By choosing Rediker Software, Capital City is not only achieving numerous benefits, they are getting support from Rediker Software as often as they need. Support for AdminPlus users not only includes an interactive web portal, but training done at the convenience of the school. As AdminPlus is completely cloud-based, the system can also support an "all-Mac shop" such as Capital City's.

By moving to the cloud, school administrators and teachers can instantly share data and engage with parents and students in a secure environment using Rediker's PlusPortals. The portals are fully integrated with AdminPlus so communicating with teachers, parents, students, staff and other community stakeholders is easy. Further, Rediker's RediSite website keeps families engaged and informed about everything from attendance and assignments to school events and fundraisers.



Rediker has provided our school with a suite of products that allows us access to everything from attendance records and scheduling software to new efficacies such as the PlusPortals and our bilingual website.

We are enthusiastic about our future with Rediker Software.



Wil Hawk
Director of School
Information Systems

For more information about
Rediker Software, visit

www.rediker.com

Rediker's integrated solutions, including the school cafeteria and library, connect departments, faculty and staff. And because the school enrolls new students through a state-run random lottery process, Rediker's Admissions Plus Pro with online applications makes it easy to track and communicate with each student's family, from matched notification to enrollment.

Capital City Public Charter School now has a next-generation data management system that is affordable, centralized and secure. "Rediker has provided our school with a suite of products that allows us access to everything from attendance records and scheduling software to new efficiencies such as the PlusPortals and our bilingual website. We are enthusiastic about our future with Rediker Software," Hawk noted.

More About Capital City Public Charter School

Capital City Public Charter School was founded in 2000 by a committed group of parents and educators, making it the first parent-founded public charter school in Washington, D.C. The school began as a PreK-8th grade program with 135 students and amended its charter in 2006 to add a high school program. The high school opened in 2008 and graduated its first class of seniors in 2012. Since then, 100% of graduating seniors in each senior class have been accepted to college.

The school now serves 981 students in grades PK3-12. Students come from nearly every zip code in the District of Columbia and represent a broad range of ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Capital City Public Charter School students acquire a love of learning, along with a strong sense of community and character. Each will graduate as young adults who are self-directed, intellectually engaged and possess a commitment to personal and civic responsibility.

Fast Facts

- Public charter schools serve approximately 44% (nearly 38,000 students) of all public school students in Washington, D.C.
- Capital City was named the most diverse school in Washington, D.C. in 2014 by Greater Greater Washington, an online news service.
- Capital City was the first school President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama visited after the president's election in 2009. Capital City is "an example of how all schools should be," he stated. The First Lady visited the school again in 2014 to celebrate its senior's college march.
- The high school was named a Tier 1 High Performing School by the D.C. Public Charter School Board in 2013, 2014 and 2016.
- Parents volunteer 20 hours per year in support of Capital City Public Charter School.

Capital City Public Charter School graduated its first class of seniors in 2012 and every year since 100% of graduating seniors have been accepted to college.

In 2014, Capital City had the highest college matriculation rate of any D.C. high school.

Visit Capital City Public Charter School's New Website:

www.ccpcs.org

For more information about Rediker Software, visit www.rediker.com