SMART

Knowledge is power.

Today's K-12 schools must do it all: teach kids the basics while preparing them for a 21st century digital workforce. While it's a tall order for all schools, it's nearly impossible for private schools in smaller rural areas. Challenges include:

* Technology that changes as fast as kids grow.
* Fundraising from a small pool to make up for lack of public funds.
* Too few funds for anything beyond the basics.

APC™ by Schneider Electric created its K-12 Makeover Contest several years ago to give winning schools an extra $10,000 to improve their IT environments.

Any K-12 school or district can enter the contest for a unique opportunity to potentially win $10,000 to improve or update technology that's keeping them from delivering on their mission.

Here's our most recent winner's story:

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A Winner: St. Matthew School

St. Matthew School, located in Campbellsport, Wisconsin, has 104 K-8 students and a daycare serving over 200 kids each week. They pride themselves on offering an education grounded in the Catholic faith, but they have difficulty funding extra projects and keeping current with technology.

Because of their limited resources, they rely on the generosity of others—like Terry Lemke of Lemke Consulting—to wire, set up, and maintain their computers. Lemke has been serving the St. Matthew School for over a decade.

Principal Joan Schlaefer opted to use their very limited funds to replace student computers. The 10-year-old computers for the teachers and administrative staff would be replaced only as needed.

When Lemke learned about the APC Makeover Contest, he immediately entered the St. Matthew School.

"We are very thankful for this generous gift. This grant has allowed us to finally get ahead of the game and will impact our school positively for many years."

— Joan Schlaefer, Principal, St. Matthew School

St. Matthew School
GROUNDED IN FAITH

"This grant allowed them to replace their outdated systems so that teachers and staff could spend less time nursing computers and more time nurturing and educating students."

— Terry Lemke, Lemke Consulting LLC

Lemke Consulting LLC

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Modernizing Outdated Systems

For APC by Schneider Electric, choosing the St. Matthew School for a desperately needed $10,000 makeover was a no-brainer.

After having already raised the funds for new student computers, and with Lemke as their trusted advisor, the St. Matthew School chose new Lenovo computers—along with extended warranties and Microsoft Office licenses—for all teachers and staff. They also purchased three LCD monitors and a 4K DLP projector to enhance the student learning experience and renewed their security and threat protection service.

To protect their server, the St. Matthew School also purchased an APC Smart-UPS with SmartConnect Battery Backup with three-year onsite protection.

This cloud-enabled, next-generation Smart-UPS will protect the school's critical data from costly interruptions—and give the school added peace of mind, while allowing Lemke and other school volunteers to easily and remotely view its status, manage notifications and firmware updates, and receive advanced support.

Finally, APC by Schneider Electric noticed that the school's server was housed in a home-built wooden rack. To house and protect their equipment in a safer, more cost-effective way, APC by Schneider Electric decided to donate a new wall-mount server rack to the school—an excellent edge option for schools that do not have a dedicated server room or closet and minimal or no IT staff.

The St. Matthew School project really speaks to the power of partnership. Because of the contributions made by APC by Schneider Electric, Tech Data, Lemke Consulting, and Mike Taivalmaa's company Live-Wire (who installed the rack for free), the St. Matthew School was finally able to create a true interactive learning environment for teachers and students.

> "[It] goes beyond just getting new computers. This is $10,000 that we do not have to raise, allowing us to raise funds for STEM or new textbooks."
>
> — Joan Schlaefer, Principal, St. Matthew School

Do you have a problem IT area that's keeping your school or district from efficiently delivering on its promise of creating an interactive learning environment?

Take a "before" picture and enter it into the APC Makeover Contest at k12makeover.apc.com!

Photo (L to R): Photo (L to R): Carolyn Ward, Channel Manager, APC by Schneider Electric; Joan Schlaefer, Principal, St. Matthew School; Terry Lemke, President, Lemke Consulting LLC.

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