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4 GENIUS WAYS SCHOOLS LIKE YOURS ARE USING **INFORMACAST**

Streamlining School Lockdowns

The administrators at Latin School of Chicago know that smart solutions equal safer students.

They integrated InformaCast with their electronic door lock system so that if the school needs to go into lockdown, three things happen:

> 1. InformaCast broadcasts an alert tone and pre-recorded warning for people to seek shelter (this goes out to the Cisco phone system, overhead speakers, and administrators' email accounts)

> 2. All of the doors in the facility automatically lock

> 3. After a preset amount of time, staff badges are disabled so they can't be used by an intruder.

This genius solution is possible because of InformaCast's ability to easily integrate with other systems.

"…[InformaCast is] as complicated as you need it to be…on the one hand, it can be very simple, and on the other hand, we can have as much complexity as we need to develop a really powerful solution,"

"InformaCast is really the glue for our notification - it can pull in email, our phone system, our speaker system, our visible security system, locks, and make it all work together."

- Shandor Simon, Director of IT Latin School of Chicago

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Saving Money by Saving Water

Rockford Public School District - Rockford, Illinois
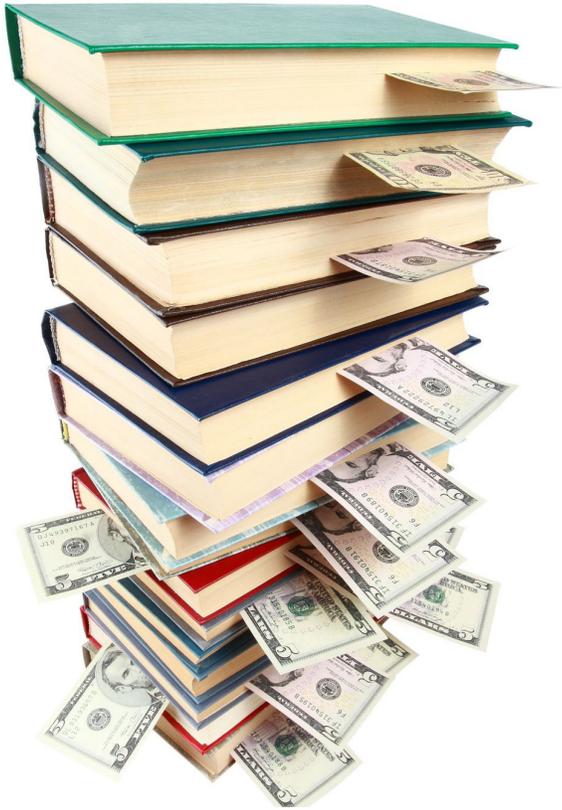
Sometimes, money savings can come from the most unexpected places.

That was the case for the Rockford Public School District when they realized they were literally flushing money down the toilet.

The school's urinals, like most, are set to flush on a regular schedule. At night, they flushed when nobody was using them. This wasted water and cost the district extra on their water bill every month.

They knew that their InformaCast software has a powerful scheduling feature and decided to integrate it with the urinals in all of their school buildings by using a machine-to-machine (M2M) configuration.

The M2M feature in InformaCast connects the virtual mechanics of the InformaCast software with the physical mechanics of the urinals.

Now, the InformaCast bell scheduler automatically monitors the activity of all of the urinals in the district. During the day, they flush on a regular schedule, but at night, InformaCast prevents them from flushing and wasting water.

Sometimes, money savings can come from the most unexpected places.

This one small change saves the district money that can now be used to meet other needs.

What are some of the unexpected places you can save money your schools?

One Solution for Many Needs

Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District - Middleton, Wisconsin

The Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District (MCPASD) is stuck in the middle, quite literally.

The district is geographically dispersed across 8 municipalities, 3 law enforcement agencies, 2 fire department districts, and 2 EMS agencies.

In an emergency, district officials have to be able to communicate with first response agencies in all those municipalities. Implementing an InformaCast Advanced Notification system solved this problem and several more.

Safety with the Touch of a Button Administrators have taken a dual internal-external approach to safety alerts.

Any of the 1,140 staff members in MCPASD can place their school or the entire district into lockdown by dialing a designated extension on a Cisco phone. This triggers the doors in the school to close and lock and simultaneously sends an alert to all classroom phones and external first responders.

"In a lockdown, we're in survival mode, and we're talking about keeping people safe from danger…to have that ability for those doors to automatically close is very comforting to staff."

- Robert Schell, Principla at Elm Lawn Elementary

For smaller-scale emergencies, a staff member can push a 'panic/duress' button on a phone to alert a set group of people.

"The pipes [at Sauk Trail Elementary School in MCPASD] had frozen and the custodian had been watching for that. Water just started funneling out, and she thought to just go press the button. It alerted…central people who could respond right away. We all came, probably literally in 10-15 seconds," says Chris Dahlk, principal.

When someone dials 911 from a district phone, InformaCast automatically sends an alert to the on-site police liaison officer with a recording of the call, time, and location.

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One Solution for Many Needs (Cont.)

MCPASD also uses InformaCast to help office workers feel more secure. Anyone in the office can use a designated button on their phone to request assistance from internal staff members. Receptionists have access to a call button that silently sends a pre-recorded request for police assistance to 911.

"...Makes me feel more comfortable, since I'm the only one here; I'm the first person they see," says MCPASD receptionist Betsy Buechner.

IMPROVING WORKFLOW AND COMMUNICATION

MCPASD administrators use InformaCast's secure Web portal to set the bell schedule for the entire school year, customize bell tones, and easily make changes throughout the year.

"I'll set the entire year in advance, and if there are any delays or closings, I can do that as well," says Roz Craney, Principal of North Side Elementary in MCPASD.
InformaCast's paging and one-to-one intercom functions provide easy ways for MCPASD staff to communicate.

"Many times, parents come early to pick up their students. I would dial [the classroom] extension...and [talk to the teacher] over the intercom," says Denise
Duhr, administrative assistant. "I can also hear if there's chatter...so I might be able to tell if they don't answer that they're not in the classroom."

BUDGET-CONSCIOUS VALUE

InformaCast helped MCPASD administrators create a centralized, easy-to-use system for student and staff protection, bell scheduling, and communication. It provides the value of several different systems and leverages.

"Being able to put an application like InformaCast on allows us to leverage and really have an effective system with that we feel is a great value; a very reasonable cost," says Tom Wohlleber, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services.

Getting Students to Class on Time with Music

Anybody who's ever wrestled with an alarm clock in the morning knows that bell tones weren't designed to be pleasant to the ear.

Mapleton School District, located on the north side of Denver, CO, has come up with a gentler, yet equally effective way to get students to class on time.

Instead of bell tones, they use the InformaCast bell scheduler to automatically play four-minute songs during passing periods between classes. Students know that when a song is over, they need to be in class.

El Cajon Valley High School is a diverse school in the Grossmont Union High School District (GUHSD) in California.

The school uses a similar method to break through language barriers and help their ESL (English as a Second Language) students feel more comfortable.

The school uses the InformaCast Bell Scheduler to broadcast 60 seconds of music during passing periods. Like in the Mapleton School District, students know they need to be in class when the music stops.

"It's funny watching the kids. As soon as the music comes on they know they have 60 seconds," says Larry Simanek, Network Specialist II at GUHSD.

- Larry Simanek, Network Specialist II at GUHSD

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Discover Your Own Genius

The Singlewire Academy is a free resource to help you get the most out of your InformaCast software.

It's filled with step-by-step video tutorials, best-practices, tips, and documents you can use right now and reference again and again in the future.

Start today by visiting the link below. Sign up for one of our upcoming 30-45-minute webinars or learn any time with the Video on Demand Library.

www.singlewire.com/academy

We'd Love to Hear from You!

If you have questions about InformaCast or would like one of our representatives to demonstrate some of the key features for you, send us an email at **sales@ singlewire.com** or call us at **1.608.661.1140 and choose option 1**.

www.singlewire.com/k12