



CASE STUDY

Graduating to a better iPad management solution

Skutt Catholic High School

OMAHA, NE

Leveraging iPad to enhance the learning experience

As a standalone, archdiocesan school in Omaha, Nebraska, Skutt Catholic High School consists of 728 students and 60 staff members. With the desire to provide students with the best technology possible, Skutt Catholic implemented an iPad program in the fall of 2014.

The program began as a blend of BYOD (bring your own device) and school-issued devices. Though not their preferred program, Skutt Catholic and their IT staff did the best with what they had. One thing was certain though, they knew a device management solution was a necessity to helping them navigate their technology program.



ROLLING THE DICE WITH A FREE TOOL

Skutt Catholic selected a free solution that aligned with their existing servers and infrastructure. It didn't take long for them to realize why this was a free management tool.

"It just never worked how we wanted it to work," said Michael Bailey, assistant principal, Skutt Catholic High School.

Skutt Catholic was able to hand out Volume Purchase Program (VPP) redemption codes, but could not successfully push them through their free management solution — a critical component of their app assignment workflow. In fact, the only restriction they were able to deploy was "Single App Mode." Bailey's only option was to restrict students to the Maps app, rendering the iPad unusable.

AT A GLANCE



High school in Omaha, NE

728 students and 60 staff members

Struggled utilizing free management software

Switched to Jamf in March 2016

Transitioned MDM solutions over the course of a few weeks

Leveraged Jamf to roll out a 1-to-1 iPad program



ONGOING HEADACHES WITH FREEWARE

The lack of customer support also became painfully obvious when things went awry with their tool. “We could have spent four days troubleshooting VPP, but we needed to get the apps and student profiles to the students now,” said Oliver Bantam, coordinator of technology, Skutt Catholic.

Login troubles and update process nightmares were the final straws. The search for a new management solution was on.



DAWNING OF A NEW IT ERA

Skutt Catholic needed a solution that worked and one that would allow them to empower students with the iPad. Their dream was to restrict the devices to school-based apps during the day and then remove the restrictions at night for students to use at home.

“We spoke with our Apple engineer, and they gave us perspective on what exists,” Bailey explained.

This led them to Jamf — an Apple-exclusive management provider with a track record of success among other schools in Nebraska and a reputation for a unique customer support model.



MAKING THE SWITCH TO JAMF

In March 2016, Skutt Catholic purchased 800 Jamf licenses, with the intent of using 400 as part of a phased approach. But because of the negative experience with their previous provider, they decided to deploy the 1-to-1 iPad devices managed by Jamf to almost all students, while the senior class BYOD users were phased out ad-hoc.

At the same time, Bantam pushed for Skutt Catholic to become a Google school. This greatly helped with the migration, as they were able to move all the data from the school-issued and BYOD iPads into Google Drive for quick and easy access to their data after the transition to Jamf.



COMMUNICATING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

“Communication becomes the single most important thing we do with any new project, especially to parents and families,” Bantam said. In April 2016, Skutt Catholic targeted theology and English class department heads, since those are required courses for all students.

After a Jamf demo (and a standing ovation), the department heads welcomed Bantam and Bailey into their classes to educate the students on the program. Next came a letter that went out to parents and families informing them of the new iPad program. The community response was overwhelmingly positive.



EXECUTING THE IPAD ROLLOUT

In May 2016, Skutt Catholic rolled out the new MDM over the course of two weeks. During the first week, they met with students on a Monday and gave them one week to save all of their iPad content — another place where the transition to Google apps for education helped immensely. The second week, they visited each class, wiped and re-enrolled each student iPad with the students. BYOD students had individual appointments to manually enroll their device into Jamf.



DELIVERING A BETTER EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

According to Bailey and Bantam, resetting the Device Enrollment Program (DEP) devices was a breeze. And while the BYOD devices required extra time, it was well worth it to transition the entire school over the course of a few weeks. Not only was the new 1-to-1 iPad program rollout successful, it also helped students with the transition to Google apps.

And even though they manage 750 devices and have roughly 1,500 on their network daily, Skutt Catholic only leverages network traffic from 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

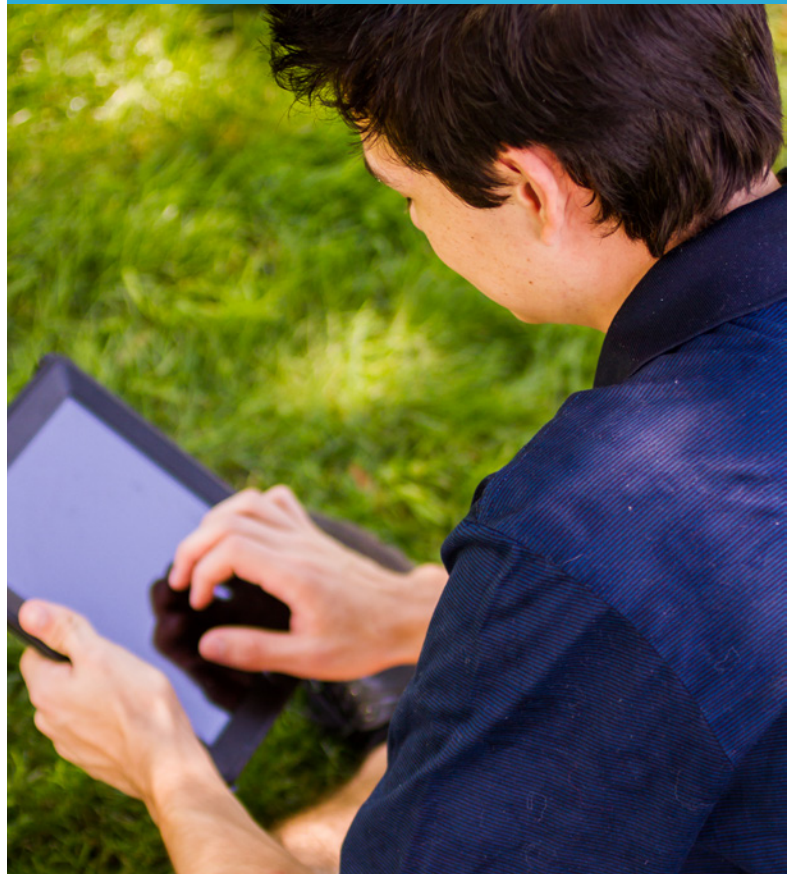
“The flexibility and scalable configuration profiles in Jamf allowed us to cut our bandwidth by 50 percent,” Bantam said.

Although Bailey and Bantam are school administrators who don't come from an IT background, their passion for wanting to deliver the best education experience possible and provide students and teachers with the best technology brought them to iPad and Jamf.

Bailey summed it up best by saying, “The students are at the center of all of this. We want them to take some ownership of the device. And with Jamf, that's finally possible.”

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Michael Bailey,
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