Shenyang Guangquan Middle School

| 3,680 Children
| Aged 12-18
| 265 Teaching Staff
| 90 Classrooms and Special Class rooms

"They are very positive about technology and are aiming to be a 'Digital Campus' from teaching to school management."

Executive Summary

The School: Shenyang Guangquan Middle School is a large private weekly boarding school; they are a key middle school. They use display technology in every classroom and currently are trailing tablet computers. Exams are a high priority and given focus throughout the school. The school has tried many forms of content and software but most have been disappointing.

Technology Background: In 2003, the school set-up its first ICT suite/computer room. In 2008, projectors were installed in all classrooms. The following summer, interactive whiteboards started to replace projectors. By 2010, all classrooms had IWBs using infrared technology. In 2014, the school moved to a new location, as well as IWBs used in standard classrooms, special classrooms were equipped with interactive flat panels. They describe themselves as aiming to be a 'Digital Campus' from teaching to the school management.

"Technology helps students to understand abstract content in a much better and easier way. Our schools daily management is also dependent on technology."

Hardware Assets:

3 ICT Suites with 162 Desktops
200 Desktop Computers (Inc. ICT Suite
110 to 220 Tablets (Trial in Progress for these)
60 Projectors
58 Interactive Whiteboards
32 Interactive Flat Panels
20 Printers
2 Scanners, Special One to Scan Exam Papers

Total of over 500 Assets

Challenges

Software Problem: Software vendors have software that can only solve one problem or need and the software does not 'talk' to other software. The school needs a complete solution.

Biggest Lesson Learnt: There are many problems when you start to apply any new technology, you have got to keep learning and also keep an open mind.

Technology Benefits and Downsides:

For students, technology is more fun which makes them more willing to learn. When parents saw improvements from the technology they became more supportive. For teachers, it makes teaching more interesting. The downside is that it is hard to control students, sometimes students in ICT play games rather than studying.

Finances:

The school does a budget each term. The budgets, which are the only source of finance, are increasing.

Computers:

They have a tablet trial in progress. Starting with 1 or 2 classes, each student will be equipped with a tablet, the lecture slides and digital content will be on the tablet. The tablet provider will be Nanfang Ruiyi. The school does not allow personal mobile devices in school and they do not provide personal computers for students.

Content:

They use digital content related to each subject, with video, lecture slides and exam questions, which are the biggest part. Zhixue is one of the websites many teachers use. In the past, they have paid for content subscriptions, but only brought for a period of time as they did not find them useful.

Usage Behaviour:

They trailled software to monitor student's performance called 'Sanliujiuyang' for two years. But the trial was not a sucess and they are currently looking for other more suitable software. As they are a boarding school, students only go home once a week, most communications are face-to-face, but they do use QQ, WeChat and emails.

Networks and Wi-Fi:

Broadband is provided by China Mobile which is stable. There is Wi-Fi coverage in the classrooms with no plans to expand. There is no access to the network from home for teachers or pupils.

Software Platforms:

They have tried OA platform management but found it didn't really work out and was not very useful for centrally controlled management.

Decisions:

To learn about new technology they attend education tech shows, carry out online research and have recommendations from other schools. They will try to have a product trial, if possible, or go to the provider to try it first.

Trianing:

When a new technology is used, training is provided for all teachers by the vendor or by experienced teachers.

IT Support:

They have no IT support; all is done by teachers in school.

Advice for Suppliers:

Integrate software for administration, teaching and assesment, so that it can work across different platforms.

Future:

Make digital campus possible, transfer from traditional management to digital to encompass the whole school.