

Case Study

St. Andrew's College

»Fujitsu and Microsoft OneNote are the best kept secret in education. Together, they are revolutionizing how we teach«

Steve Rush, IT Director, St. Andrew's College



The customer

As an independent school, St. Andrew's College prides itself on the innovative ways in which it teaches students, using collaborative, activity-based, boy-friendly learning along with cutting-edge technology to engage and inspire. The school has been teaching boys for more than a century and excels in academics, the arts, athletics, and co-curricular programming that is amongst the most varied and comprehensive of any private school in Canada.

The challenge

St. Andrew's has embraced technology as a critical tool in enhancing the learning experience. Interactive projectors, HD TV screens in the classroom, a campus-wide wireless network, and other elements help make lessons more engaging; however, there is one vital device which plays a more important role. In 2008, the school partnered with Fujitsu to equip all students and faculty members with Fujitsu LIFEBOOK T5010 tablets.

While these convertible devices provided a flexible and portable laptop/tablet hybrid, faculty and students found them to be bulky and unable to cope with the more demanding design applications.

"The first generation of tablets was a great addition to our technology program but we felt they were lacking in a few areas," explains Steve Rush, IT Director, St. Andrew's College. "The ability to convert between laptop and tablet modes was superb but you still felt like the laptop was not yet perfect. People wanted a more elegant look and even better performance."

As part of the continuing relationship with Fujitsu, St. Andrew's refreshes its devices every three years, so when 2011 arrived it was ready to take on board the Fujitsu LIFEBOOK T902. This had an immediate impact on teachers and students alike.

The solution

The Fujitsu LIFEBOOK T902 offers a perfectly versatile and flexible tablet PC. It comes with a 33.8 cm (13.3-inch) screen, and a pen and finger input. St. Andrew's purchased 720 devices to equip every student and teacher.

"In all my years as an IT Director, I can honestly say no laptop has ever been loved more than the Fujitsu T902. It has a much more attractive design and a real 'cool' factor that instantly made the boys sit up and take notice. It's slimmer but also more robust, which is important in the rough and tumble environment of an all-boys' school," says Rush.

The customer

Country: Canada
Industry: Education
Founded: 1899
Employees: 200
Website: www.sac.on.ca



The challenge

St. Andrew's College is engaged in an ongoing mission to fully integrate the best collaborative communication technology into the classroom. It needed a flexible, high-performing tablet for its faculty members and students.

The solution

The school has partnered with Fujitsu to equip students and teachers with LIFEBOOK convertible tablets. With the latest refresh of the technology, St. Andrew's College has upgraded to the Fujitsu LIFEBOOK T902.

The benefit

- Tablets boast elegant and slimline design with a quiet, responsive, and reliable Solid State Drive (SSD)
- Battery life extends to seven hours of constant use, covering an entire school day
- Enhanced build quality led to a 70 percent reduction in repairs
- Increased performance means the tablet can easily handle demanding applications such as video editing
- Inkable tablet led to a 60 percent decrease in paper use

There are 626 students now using the tablet in all classes, switching seamlessly between writing on the screen, typing and drawing. Microsoft OneNote acts as the killer educational application, giving teachers the ability to plan lessons, manage class assignments, and share information.

"Fujitsu and Microsoft OneNote are the best kept secret in education. Together, they are revolutionizing how we teach," says Rush. "The Fujitsu tablet also has the horsepower to handle video editing and Adobe Creative Suite – that's a major step forward."

For Melissa Ramon, the ITi Committee Chair and teacher of history and language arts, the tablet has broadened educational horizons: "The camera helps when working with archival documents – students can take photos and immediately embed them into visual projects. It's also very responsive when we're casting our tablet screens to the HD monitors in class. Students have a low tolerance for delays, so the ability to instantly share images and information keeps everyone engaged."

The benefit

For St. Andrew's College, the benefits have been manifold; chief amongst them is the dramatic decline in paper use. Printing has reduced by 60 percent because everything is poured into OneNote and then highlighted, annotated, and studied online using the stylus. Similarly, physical textbooks are in decline as customized courses designed on OneNote are increasingly used. That means fewer costs and lighter backpacks for students. Students love the feel of the stylus/pen on the tablet and feel just as comfortable doing math problems on the Fujitsu LIFEBOOK as they do on paper. The school is also impressed by the enhanced robustness of the device and its lengthy battery life.

Products and services

- 720 x FUJITSU Tablet LIFEBOOK T902

"Several math classes have now eradicated textbooks and we no longer use photocopied handouts – that equates to a lot less paper," comments Rush. "We've also seen a 70 percent fall in repairs – this LIFEBOOK can easily cope with the bumps and bruises of an all-boys' school. And because it runs a solid-state drive, it is quieter, much faster, and more reliable. It also runs constantly for seven hours on one charge, which perfectly suits the school day."

"When you are writing on screen, it is the pen that matters, not the touch features, and this tablet does a fabulous job of capturing what you want to write. It's the first time I've seen both touch and type merged so perfectly," adds Rush. "This has become everyone's favorite computer; we've never had such enthusiasm for a device before. It's got to the point that students are asking where they can buy their own to take to university."

Conclusion

St. Andrew's College is using the lightweight, durable, and high-performing Fujitsu LIFEBOOK to transform the learning experience and is looking forward to introducing the next generation model in the coming year.

"The Fujitsu LIFEBOOK is a flexible, elegant, and versatile device that has enabled teachers and students alike to get to work and learn the way they need to by harnessing print, web, analog, and digital data within one device."

Steve Rush, IT Director, St. Andrew's College

[Watch the video](#)

Contact

FUJITSU
Address: 1250 E. Arques Avenue,
Sunnyvale, CA 94085-3470, USA
Phone: 1-800-831-3183
E-mail: AskFujitsu@us.fujitsu.com
Website: us.fujitsu.com
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