

Choosing a Student Information System for the Right Reasons

McCann Technical School decided to come back to Follett Aspen™ after briefly moving to another Student Information System (SIS) because it was clear to administrators that certain factors made Aspen the superior choice.

Justin Kratz, Principal at McCann, explained after using Aspen and moving to a different program, he learned lessons about what teachers need, want and value when using an SIS.

“We returned to Aspen in the summer of 2016, and just went live this September,” said Kratz. “We already knew how to use Aspen, so the learning curve and time investment was minimal, making it a smoother transition. We’ve learned a lot about what we need in an SIS. Aspen’s quick-find functionality makes it very simple for us to locate students, discipline referrals are easy to navigate, and running reports is very effective. Our administrative staff is always able to generate the information we need through excellent reports with Aspen.”

Kratz pointed out how teachers were able to quickly adapt and run with Aspen’s pages functionality. “I see this being a huge asset to our school as it will improve student-teacher communication with the pages feature being the medium. It makes it pretty seamless.”

Another feature lauded by educators at McCann is the Aspen Gradebook, which Kratz credits as giving teachers an efficient way to monitor what’s happening with each student without wasting time. “The Gradebook is very popular with our teachers, because of its ease of navigation, the way teachers can create assignments and run reports. Plus, it allows us to import assignments and categories from year to year, take attendance via the seating chart, and see each student’s transcript at a glance. That’s a big time saver.”

One aspect of returning to Aspen that is gaining staff accolades is the customer service accompanying its implementation. Kratz is happy with the attention his team received throughout the transition. “The customer service we received for the Aspen conversion was stellar,” he explained. “The data transfer went smoothly and was done in a timely manner. All involved were helpful and hard-working. The help desk has been top notch in handling any issue or concern each and every time.”

According to Kratz, the 2016 school year and beyond looks bright with Aspen in place to assist. “Using Aspen, my staff will be able to better communicate and provide resources to their students through the Pages function. And in the future, we will be looking to give students the ability to submit work electronically and reduce the amount of paper used in the district. It’s exciting.”



“Follett’s commitment to customer service is the reason we originally liked the company so much. Upon our return to Follett, it was clear to see there is a sincere renewal effort in this regard, and it is working.”

JUSTIN KRATZ

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