

Saint Francis High School Selects Kanex ATV Pro for New iLearning Experience

Located in the beautiful city of Mountain View, California, Saint Francis High School is a nationally recognized School of Excellence. Saint Francis is a diverse, co-educational, Catholic, college preparatory school focused on educating the whole person in the tradition of Holy Cross.

Boasting an innovative college preparatory curriculum, Saint Francis' commitment to learning in the 21st century requires an ever-changing technology landscape. "Our technical capabilities continue to evolve and expand, from classroom learning to mobile and home-school connectivity," says Larry Steinke, Technology Director. Steinke adds, "We continually explore and adopt well-designed educational technologies."



Sobrato Family Learning Commons. Photo courtesy of Craig Cozart.

Connected Classrooms

With 70 classrooms and ancillary rooms, Steinke and his team deal with many challenges, including adapting to changes in connectivity and collaboration, supporting faculty with diverse needs and enabling the curriculum with technology that enhances the learning environment rather than complicating it.



Photo courtesy of Saint Francis High School.

Like most modern high schools, Saint Francis has been using computers in the classroom for years. Having long-ago deployed and supported laptop and desktop PC's, each classroom is equipped with a VGA-compatible projector and interactive whiteboards. Yet, as technology has

evolved, teachers regularly use Apple's iPad for instruction and student collaboration. Saint Francis High School launched a 1:1 iPad program this year which has placed 1800+ iPads into the hands of their students and faculty. The focus of the program is to improve learning and revolutionize the student experience.

Well documented, the advantages of implementing iPads in the classroom are significant, yet pose unique challenges. One of these challenges is how to best display and project the iPad's screen using existing hardware.

"We needed to enable iPad display on more than 65 overhead projectors and we needed to meet budget and timeline constraints," says Steinke.

Apple TV and Apple's AirPlay technology offered a convenient way to share and collaborate with multiple iPads, but the team had to solve the challenge of HDMI output to VGA projectors and traditional audio systems.



Saint Francis High School Performing Arts Center. Photo courtesy of Bob Canfield.

Making it Work – ATV Pro

The goal was simple – seamlessly connect each Apple TV device to the existing VGA projector and analog audio in each classroom. Steinke and his team were interested in solutions that provided video and audio support and needed a simple-to-use solution. Steinke shares,

“We looked at a number of solutions and found the ATV Pro to be the easiest, cleanest, and most cost-effective product available.”

Steinke and his team deployed a Kanex ATV Pro for every one of their existing projectors, eliminating the expense and hassle of purchasing and installing HDMI-capable projectors. Requiring no-external power, the ATV Pro was easy to deploy and provided seamless audio and video conversion between Apple TV and the existing projector. The ATV Pro features 3.5mm stereo audio output, and supports up to full 1080p resolution.

A+ Results

The combination of Apple TV and Kanex ATV Pro allows instructors to be mobile in the classroom, as well as enabling students to share their work in real-time. Saint Francis now uses ATV Pro in every classroom and conference room and their world-class Performing Arts Center for large presentations.

Steinke says he has received tremendous feedback from a very appreciative faculty. “Our instructors often talk about the value that the iPad brings to their classroom and they really like the ease-of-use we have provided with this solution.”



Kanex ATV Pro - AirPlay Mirroring for VGA Projectors w/ Apple TV

About Saint Francis

Founded in 1955 by the Brothers of Holy Cross at the invitation of the Archbishop of San Francisco, Saint Francis High School is a leading coeducational, diverse, Catholic, college preparatory school focused on educating the whole person. With a proven reputation for excellence in academics, athletics, activities and the arts, over 100 faculty members prepare approximately 1700 Saint Francis students for the rigors of college and the challenges of global citizenship in the enduring Holy Cross tradition. Graduating students attend the finest colleges and universities in the nation with 93% of the 2012 graduates attending a four-year university and 98.6% attending college. Saint Francis High School is located in Mountain View, Calif., approximately 35 miles south of San Francisco. For more information, visit <http://www.sfhs.com>.

About Kanex

Kanex is a leader of innovative Apple and iOS connectivity solutions for homes and businesses worldwide. Kanex is dedicated to advancing technology by investing in tomorrow's future. Leveraging its deep-rooted commitment to the consumer electronics industry, Kanex continues to design and develop products that fit the individual, the house, the business and the environment. More information can be found on the web at www.kanexlive.com.

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