

Teaching independence for parents and students alike with Axis network cameras.

Dancing Moose Montessori School advances education with network video.



Organization:

Dancing Moose
Montessori School

Location:

West Valley City, Utah,
USA

Industry segment:

Education

Application:

Student safety, classroom
monitoring

Axis partners:

Stone Security,
Milestone Systems

Mission

Dancing Moose Montessori School opened its doors with a promise to parents and students to provide unmatched learning experience with programs that are unique, learning environments that are professional and safe, and processes that are transparent. Safety was a key consideration, but to stay true to its promise of transparency, the school needed a security system that was robust and effective while also allowing parents to remotely monitor their children without interrupting class.

Solution

Utah-based systems integrator and Axis partner Stone Security recommended a solution involving 40 Axis network cameras, Milestone XProtect® Express IP video management software (VMS), and a pair of 42-inch monitors to create a monitoring system that allows parents and school administrators to observe students and teachers without interfering in classroom activities. The monitors are in the lobby, and the cameras are set up throughout the school.

Result

With the simple click of a mouse, parents have live access to their child's classroom without the distraction that their presence in the room would create. They can quickly and easily observe how their child learns and interacts with classmates and teachers. For administrators, the ability to monitor classrooms remotely means that teacher evaluations are no longer a distraction to students or the teacher. The integration of the video system with access control provides efficient management of safety matters in the school.

“The Axis-Milestone solution has become a huge selling point for our school. Parents love the ability to drop off their children, who may be crying and suffering from separation anxiety, and check in after five minutes to see that their child is happy and engaged in the classroom. It’s really powerful.”

Jennifer Duffield, Executive Director, the Dancing Moose Montessori School.

A total learning experience

Founded by President Joyce Sibbett, Ph.D., Dancing Moose Montessori School of West Valley City, Utah, focuses on the total learning experience by providing engaging activities and specialized programs tailored to each class.

Because peace of mind for parents, students, teachers and staff is a priority, Dancing Moose commissioned a state-of-the-art, integrated monitoring and security system for their schools. The system, installed by Stone Security of Salt Lake City, relies on a variety of Axis network cameras and is networked through Milestone XProtect Express VMS. The solution also includes a 4U BCD Video tower server powered by HP, Netgear 24-port POE switches and a DMP intrusion system.

Every child in view

At the school's original location, opened in 2007, Stone Security installed pan/tilt/zoom AXIS 212 PTZ-V Network Cameras inside the classrooms to offer instant pan/tilt/zoom functionality. When Dancing Moose opened a second location in 2014, Stone Security chose either wide-angle, 3 megapixel AXIS M3006-V or panoramic, 5 megapixel AXIS M3007-PV Fixed Dome Network Cameras to provide complete views of each room.

For external security afterhours, Stone Security installed HDTV-quality 720p AXIS P3364-VE Fixed Dome Network Cameras outside the building. The cameras' Lightfinder technology is ideal for low-light visibility. The exterior cameras are set to record on motion, and they can be viewed on Duffield's office computer.

“We recommend Axis cameras specifically because IP-based cameras are easy to use, provide high resolution, and offer a great deal of flexibility to choose frame rates, resolution and recording options on the fly,” said Andy Schreyer of Stone Security.

Effective learning through observation

Two 42-inch NEC monitors are installed in the lobby of Dancing Moose Montessori School, where parents can see their child at any point throughout the day without being a distraction in the classroom, which could cause their child to act differently.

Visitors, parents, staff, and teachers use unique access codes to enter the system, but only after verbal and visual confirmation.

“The system is very straightforward but also effective and secure. Parents can walk up to our monitoring stations with no experience in professional video systems, and the intuitive Milestone software provides easy and secure access to live video of their child's classroom – including control over camera angles.

“Our parents typically flock to the monitoring station where they can observe their children learning, playing, eating, and interacting with teachers and fellow students,” says Jennifer Duffield, Executive Director, Dancing Moose Montessori School.

Parents and school administrators are equally interested in educators' teaching methods, such as whether or not the pupils are actively participating in the lesson and activities, as well as verifying that students are playing safely and eating well.

“What's great is that the Milestone and Axis technology allows us to observe classrooms without disturbing the lesson flow,” said Duffield.

“The IP-based Milestone system paired with Axis network cameras is easy to use and provides clear, high-resolution images to both managers and parents at Dancing Moose Montessori School,” explains Andy Schreyer, Stone Security. “Additionally, because Milestone and Axis operate on an open platform system, we are able to provide our client with the flexibility to grow the system to future schools and add new integrations over time, thus creating equity in the system. Milestone keeps up as Axis releases new cameras with updated features. This eliminates the need for system replacement, because it never becomes obsolete.”

