How Gilmour Academy Became a Technology Leader

Chalk.com Customer Success Story

Gilmour Academy

www.gilmour.org

TYPE: CATHOLIC PRIVATE SCHOOL

LOCATED: GATES MILLS, OH

LEVEL: GRADES 7-12

STUDENTS: 685

TEACHERS: 87

Gilmour Academy is always looking to provide the most innovative education to drive student success. Being a leader in technology-based programs attracts bright minds and creates unique student learning opportunities. Having an organized curriculum and highly motivated teachers are key components to achieving their goals.

Products used:

Curriculum Plus
Create living curriculum documents that connect directly to teacher lesson plans.

Admin
Provide teachers with feedback and monitor real-time usage analytics.

On-site training
Chalk.com staff-run workshops and in-person training.

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Challenge

For a private school, it can be challenging to distinguish education offerings against the many options that students have available to them. Gilmour Academy wanted to provide an innovative and technology-driven learning experience that gives students opportunities they couldn't get elsewhere. On the staff side, the school felt that it was time to upgrade from outdated software and tools that their teachers had pushed against for years.

Dan Adiletta
Coordinator of Academic Technology and Computer Science Instructor

Dan always has his ear to the ground for new technology to improve teaching at Gilmour. During his time as an educational app developer, he heard about Planboard, the free lesson planner by Chalk.com, and later used it for his own instruction. After learning about the Chalk.com Curriculum platform, Adiletta realized the potential for upgrading from their existing curriculum mapping tool.

Chalk.com fits in with Adiletta's school improvement plan, an initiative to position Gilmour Academy as a technology leader within the local community and extended networks. New tools and programs are needed to make a comprehensive improvement in every aspect of the learning experience to achieve their goals.

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Solution

Gilmour Academy incorporated Chalk.com Curriculum as an essential component in the plan to become a recognized technology leader. The administration understands how important both curriculum consistency and ease of reporting are for their school accreditation (ISACS). Teachers can now create curriculum content in relevant templates and ensure alignment to curriculum standards, with straightforward reporting.

Implementation was well organized and effectively orchestrated featuring learning sessions, Chalk.com live teacher support, and regular check ins with a customer success rep. Teachers are able to get started with peace of mind knowing that help is never far away.

"Prepping for the technology portion of DRAC, it goes department by department. It's a highly stressful point," explains Adiletta. **"Chalk.com is a key portion in that solution, and it's giving us a better peace of mind."**

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Results

The new courses and curriculum now offered at Gilmour Academy are sparking the attention of prospective students, parents, and local communities. New courses such as computer programming and robotics attract students interested in pursuing careers in technology, and provides extra-curricular opportunities that highlight Gilmour's innovative environment.

"We saw a record turnout for our open house this year, and higher enrollment applications." says Adiletta. "Parents are recognizing that Gilmour is distinguishing itself with technology."

Having effective tools and processes in place is allowing Gilmour to quickly undertake new technology initiatives and make ongoing improvements to curriculum. Teachers at Gilmour Academy now use Chalk.com Curriculum to develop their class curriculum in coordination with other subject areas.

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Many of the teachers have also begun using Planboard for lesson planning directly from the curriculum content. Even teachers that formerly used pen and paper or simple online documents have made a smooth transition to the new online tools.

> **"I've taught for thirty years, I didn't want to invest the time to make my plans fit once more to something that doesn't work. Planboard, you make it your own, and make it work for you. It's not a tool I have to cookie cut."**
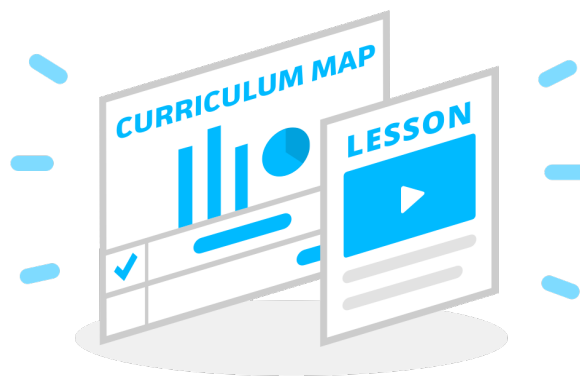>
> **- Carmel Fantelli, American History Teacher**

During the early stages of accreditation accountability, Chalk.com has eliminated the document-chasing of the past with instant reports of the most up-to-date curriculum for every subject. Organizing curriculum documents for presentation to the accreditation committee is now an instantaneous task rather than an ongoing process.

Chalk.com Curriculum Plus

Guarantee consistent and accountable instruction

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