Elementary Students Gain Independence through Device Use

Over the years, the School District of Mauston, WI has tried multiple charging solutions in their classrooms. With a new elementary building being constructed, Director of Technology Mark Vallier III had to make the decision of which charging station to put in all of the new classrooms. After exploring multiple options, Vallier knew PowerGistics Towers were the solution.

Easy for Students Means Time Savings for Teachers

Jane Lalk, 2nd grade teacher at Mauston, enthusiastically agrees with Vallier's choice. She has used big carts in previous years and describes them as being challenging for the students to access devices. With cords all over and the awkward positioning of device slots, students had a hard time getting their devices.

Primary Pain Points

- Students have difficulty retrieving and returning devices
- Teachers spending time managing devices
- Time-consuming inventory management for tech director

Solution:

- Wall mounted Core20 in each classroom
- Devices live in the Towers

The cords are wired along each shelf making it easy for students to plug in devices. Lalk comments, "They just grab that cord that's right next to theirs and they charge the device with no problem. And even if they put it in backwards, the cord can extend and reach to the right side."

Significant to Lalk's daily routine is the time savings she gains with students managing devices using PowerGistics Towers.

> *"This unit is definitely a time saver. They take care of it completely."*
> — Jane Lalk, 2nd Grade Teacher

"This unit is definitely a time saver, for sure. They take care of it completely. I don't have to do anything with it whatsoever. They do all of it themselves." says Lalk.

Young students in Jane's classroom can easily access their devices from their wall-mounted PowerGistics Tower. "It starts at 8:00am. They are probably in and out of this unit about a dozen times a day," estimates Lalk.

The colors and numbers help Lalk's students identify their shelves; even her special needs students can easily find and retrieve devices. "They can visually see that they are the second red container or second blue one or the fifth yellow one, it's just visually appealing and just very easy to find where they have to load their own Chromebook and charge them."

"My favorite thing about this, is the fact that it doesn't take up an awful lot of space and it's kind of tucked back here in the corner. It's not big and bulky like the other unit we used to have."

"It's just a wonderful unit. I wouldn't want to give it up," says Lalk.

Independence and Organization are Key for Success

That organization and independence is what was most important from an administrator's perspective. Jolene Routson, Principal of Mauston Westside Elementary and Mauston Montessori School, says that after exploring and struggling with a variety of charging stations, they realized that organization and independence for students was critical.
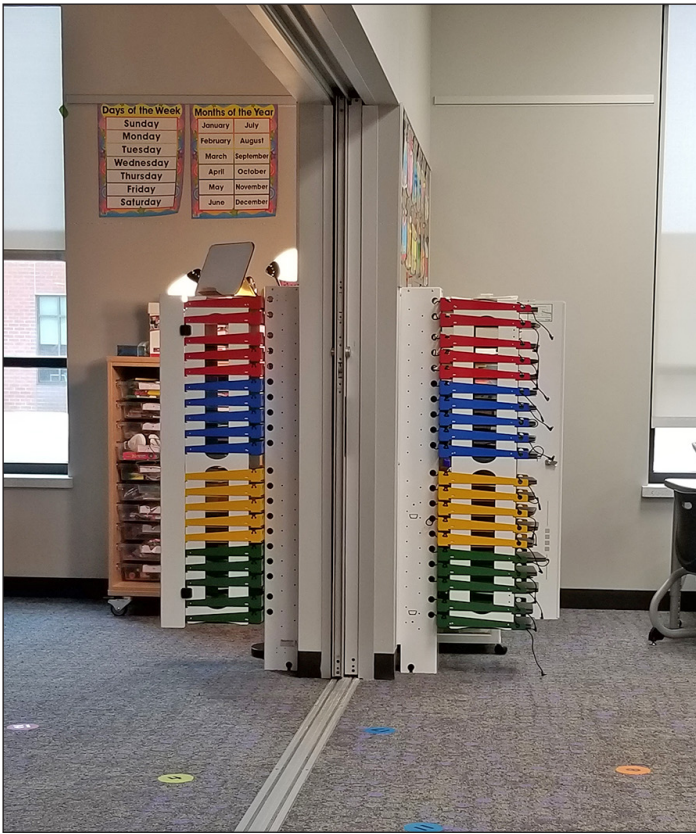
"We were really looking for uniformity, and this allowed us to have uniformity," comments Routson.

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— Jolene Routson, Principal

"It has really cut down my repair times because the devices last longer."

— Mark Vallier III, Director of Technology

She wanted to ensure that teachers were hands-off, and the students could manage devices themselves.

"We chose to wall-mount the Towers in this beautiful new elementary building to standardize the classrooms. Teachers can easily switch rooms, students can be moved from room to room and they just know where to go to get their device," says Vallier.

"Back to that independence. That's what we were looking for and PowerGistics nailed it," says Routson.

Save on Costs from Device Damage

Mark Vallier III is a one-man technology department for the Mauston School District. With so much on his plate on a daily basis, he considered carefully which new charging stations to put in a new building. He chose PowerGistics for multiple reasons.

Knowing device replacement and repair is a huge cost, Vallier saw how easily student devices got damaged by placing them in the vertical slots of other charging stations. He describes the students putting the laptop right over a thin metal divider and the keyboard or screen getting damaged. Using PowerGistics now, Vallier says, "It has really cut down my repair times because the devices last longer."

Streamline Device Inventory

In addition to reducing device damage, Vallier has improved his inventory process by wall mounting PowerGistics Towers in the classrooms.

"Having a mounted solution in the room on the wall allows me to give it an asset tag and all of my Chromebooks are checked out to that Tower. It saves me time in my asset management system and is a secure way that we will be storing devices in the summertime.   In our elementary buildings, we no longer have to go collect those devices. We close the door, lock it, and it's secure for the summer," describes Vallier.

"And we know that it may be a costlier product but it is far superior to anything else we've used."

— Jolene Routson, Principal

Check All the Boxes

"When it came down to it, we were really looking for something with ease of use that had great organization and efficiency, as well as just helping kids be independent, and PowerGistics really checked all the boxes for us," says Routson.

She continues, "And we know that it may be a costlier product but it is far superior to anything else we've used."
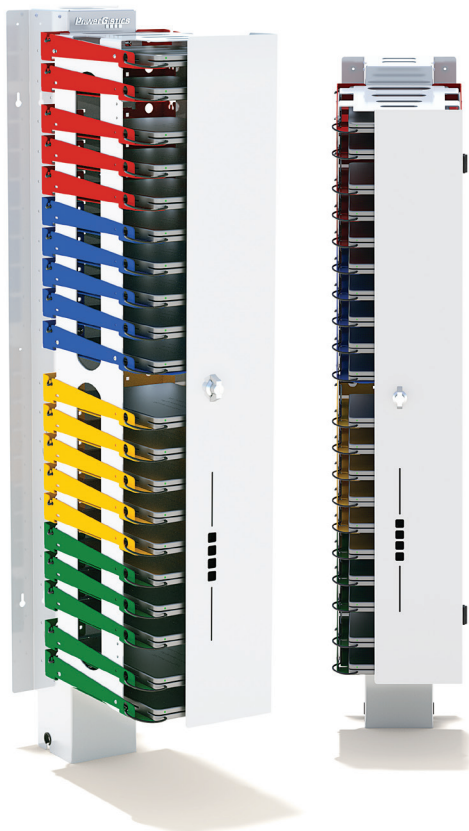
Watch testimonial videos

Outcome

- Students are independent in retrieving and returning their devices
- Teachers do not have to manage devices
- Uniformity in device access across classrooms
- Device inventory is manageable for one-person tech department

The Mauston School District is located in Mauston, Wisconsin, about 60 miles northwest of Madison. The district serves students in grades PK through 12th grade in five different schools. Total district enrollment is around 1200 students.

Read more about schools who have made the switch:
www.powergistics.com/case-studies/

CORE20 USB
Model #: 1C200USB

20 shelf wall-mounted Tower for devices up to 14.75", including a USB power strip, 20 USB-A to USB-C cords, keyed locking door and TechStop.

TOWER DIMENSIONS:
H 59.00" x W 11.25" x D 22.00"

Power Supply:
100 - 250 VAC 50/60 Hz. Output of 2.1 A per port for sleep and charge. For devices with maximum power supply of 45 W or less.

Cord Length: 10'

Assembled Weight: 64.00 lb

Shelf Spacing:

Top: 1.75"

Other Shelves: 2.25"

CORE20
Model #: 1C200

20 shelf wall-mounted Tower for devices up to 14.75", with keyed locking door and TechStop.

TOWER DIMENSIONS:
H 59.00" x W 11.25" x D 22.00"

Power Supply:
20 Outlet Power Strip 120 V, 15 A Circuit Breaker For Standard 110 V Outlets

Cord Length: 10' / 3.05

Assembled Weight:
64.00 lb

Shelf Spacing:

Top Shelf Spacing: 1.75"

Spacing on Other Shelves: 2.25"

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