

Case Study: Custom Programming

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ABOUT THE CLIENT

A county-wide technical high school northern New Jersey has over 650 students enrolled and nearly 80 faculty. Our client weaves career preparation, integrated academic instruction, and technical instruction into the total fabric of school life for all students. This model provides the link between traditional curricula and workforce preparation. As a result, students will be better able to meet today's higher education standards and succeed both in a competitive workforce and in their personal and community goals. This experience gives students a distinct edge, which is "career maturity." This one element in the developing process has been proven as the one ingredient that improves students' chances in completing their college education and becoming a success in the work place.

THE REQUIREMENT

The client desired to keep exterior doors locked during class time and allow students and faculty to pass freely during passing time. This would allow easy egress in between class periods and keep the facility secure during class time. School administrators also wanted to be able to monitor students during passing time and the parking lots at both campuses using video surveillance.

THE SOLUTION

Triad technicians programmed the access control software to synchronize with the passing bell schedule. A number of surveillance cameras were also installed to monitor the parking lots, athletic fields and doorways. Children and staff could be observed during passing times remotely. School administrators also installed a video intercom to monitor traffic entering the building. The intercom system allows authorized personnel to unlock the door and allow entry if desired. These measures not only provide additional protection for the faculty and students, it shelters the property by overseeing the whole campus from one central location. This can prevent vandalism and deter mischief by unsupervised students.

INDUSTRY FACTS

An article entitled "Proofing Schools Against Vandalism - School Safety," written by William J. Pappalardo in School Administrator magazine in June 2002 explains, "Preventing vandalism to school buildings begins during the design process. With a growing trend of community use of school buildings, accessibility to a greater number of people translates into more exposure. Building layout can aid in controlling traffic or limiting access to those spaces typically used after hours. Restricting vehicular access to designated parking areas can prevent autos from getting onto open landscaped areas or athletic fields except under controlled situations. Night lighting of school buildings to create a well-lit, secure area and discourage vandalism can present problems in typically residential areas. One alternative is the use of building light, plus 10 feet of exterior lighting adjacent to the building perimeter from dusk to dawn."

The article goes on to discuss the installation of a security system as another option or in addition to other security measures. Break-ins, unauthorized entry or trespassing can be detected by the security system.

The National School Safety Center states, "significant progress is being made to ensure that all of our nation's school are safe, secure and productive. NSSC's goal with America's Safe Schools Week (October 19-25, 2008) is to motivate key education and law enforcement policymakers, as well as students, parents and community residents, to vigorously advocate school safety. School safety includes keeping campuses free of crime and violence, improving discipline, and increasing student attendance. School that are safe and free of violence, weapons and drugs are necessary to ensure the well-being of all children and the quality of their education.

**Triad Security Systems does not disclose clients' names or locations in an effort to protect their privacy and safety.*