The Customer

Chartered by Central Michigan University upon the belief that all children are unique individuals, Greater Heights Academy, a K-6 public school with over 25,000 square feet of space including 12 classrooms, approximately 300 students and 13 teachers, has taken the responsibility to educate each child by building individual strengths and self-esteem which ultimately leads to success. The academy also believes in building positive relationships with parents and students to foster open communication. To establish and guarantee such an intense learning environment, safety and security are top priorities for students, faculty, staff, parents and community partners as well as the facility itself.

Greater Heights Academy Increases Campus Safety with Digital Watchdog®

Greater Heights Academy benefits from the robust features of DW Spectrum™.

The Opportunity

So unhappy with donated analog cameras that the academy didn't even use them, Greater Heights Academy sought cameras that would help increase safety while monitoring student behavior.

As with most educational institutions, budgetary constraint is a huge concern in purchasing the best security equipment available; however, it seems that Greater Heights Academy had a "fairy godmother integrator" by the name of eos Business Surveillance Solutions that assisted with the cost of their new security system.

"With the Big Brother Project, our purpose is to help businesses and organizations in need that are unable to pay for the full cost of the system," explained Integrator Francis Ralabate of eos Business Surveillance Solutions.

After thoroughly analyzing the academy's needs, which included monitoring the front door of the academy from the office, being able to electronically unlock the door after verifying the individual awaiting entry and resolving disputes by looking at the truth first hand, Ralabate designed a security system for the academy that consisted of eos Mega Pixel cameras, 1.3 domes and 2MP bullets. A custom-built, i7, 8GB Ram, 8TB server was also added and is used daily by the administration as a vital management tool.

"We have cameras in just about every area of the school," explained Lisa Leimeister, director, Greater Heights Academy. "We use them frequently to investigate behaviors by students as well as for the safety of all staff, parents and students in the school."
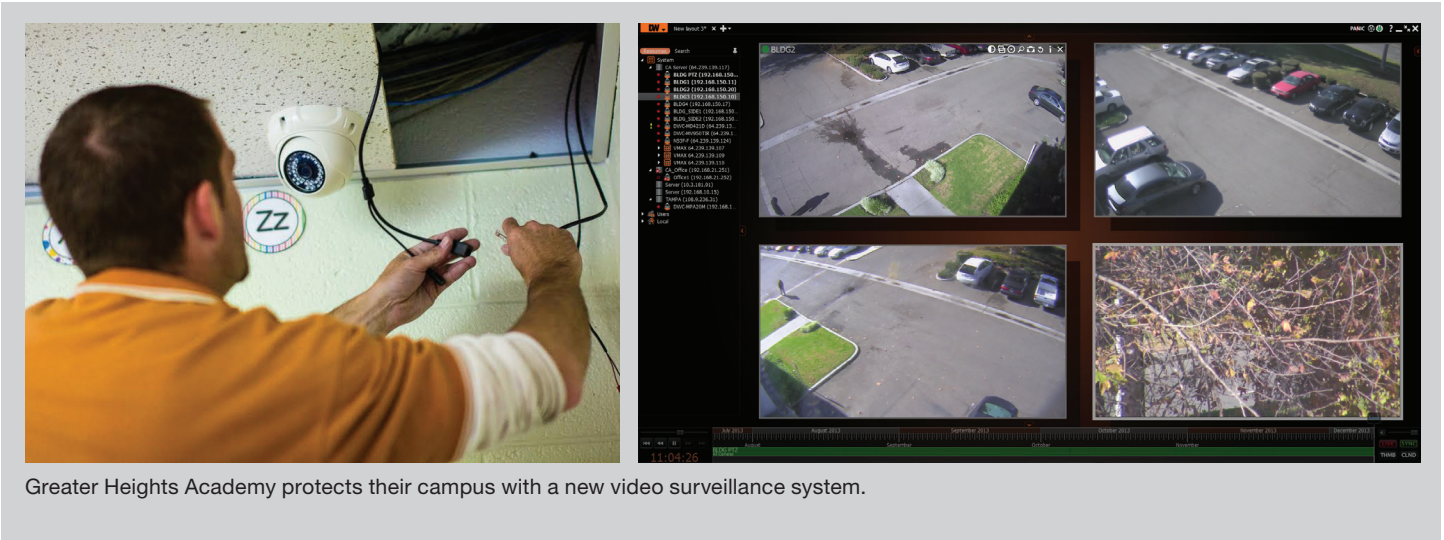
DWspectrum™ IPVMS

Key Features:

- 1080P Screen Recording
- Codecs & Streams: H.264, MJPEG, MPEG4
- Cross Platform: Linux, Windows and MAC clients
- Digital Zoom: Live and Playback
- Dual Stream Recording
- Fully Customizable Layouts
- Firmware Upgrade: Auto via FTP Server and Manual

DW Spectrum™ screen view

Greater Heights Academy protects their campus with a new video surveillance system.

The Digital Watchdog® Solution

Initially, Geovision was in the plan for the VMS; however, after Ralabate familiarized himself with the usability of Digital Watchdog's DW Spectrum™, a powerful, user-friendly IP video management software, it was obvious that DW Spectrum provided the flexibility and scalability for this project.

"DW Spectrum has a modern user interface that enables ease of use," said Ralabate.

The eosMP cameras record locally and Greater Heights is able to monitor locally as well as from their mobile devices including iPads, iPhones and laptops because of DW Spectrum. This enables Leimeister and other appointed staff to monitor the academy for safety from home.

"This has saved us multiple late-night trips to the school," said Leimeister. "[Personally, the cameras] save me time that I would have spent driving back and forth, along with investigating other situations."

With cameras placed at each corner of the building to provide coverage of entryways and the parking lot as well as the playground, hallways and classrooms, everyone involved is safer. Leimeister is already seeing a return on the academy's investment of deploying eosMP cameras with Digital Watchdog DW Spectrum in the fact that travel to and from the facility during non-school hours has diminished.

In addition to travel time, a situation occurred where $80 was stolen from Leimeister's wallet. After thorough investigation of camera footage, she discovered that the money was stolen by an adult in the building.

"I easily found the moment when it was taken and had proof of the theft," she said.

Not only was the accusation being made correct and verified by DW Spectrum, but this is just one example of how this software works with eosMP cameras to provide great daily assistance for the academy.

Ralabate also told of an incident that involved a missing item from a teacher's desk. The Smart Search™ feature was implemented on DW Spectrum, allowing the culprit to be found with ease.

Greater Heights Academy staff members have expressed their immense satisfaction to the clarity of eosMP cameras and the ease of use that Digital Watchdog offers with DW Spectrum, in addition to Digital Watchdog's responsiveness to all questions from both eos and Greater Heights. If it wasn't for this installation, Greater Heights would still be stuck with an ineffective surveillance system.

According to Leimeister, Greater Heights Academy's experience of working with Digital Watchdog and eos Business Surveillance Solutions can be summed up with three words: "efficient, thorough, safe," while Ralabate describes Digital Watchdog as "futuristic, intuitive, powerful."

Digital Watchdog® (DW) is committed to delivering complete analog and IP open platform video surveillance security solutions to its customers worldwide. DW® products are the easiest to install and manage in the industry. The company's production and quality control (QC) processes ensure usability and dependability. DW® provides the most robust video management system (VMS) on the market, DW Spectrum™, allowing customers to realize superior return on investment (ROI) in any vertical market and application.