

Greater Atlanta Christian School Gives Top Honors to Xirrus for the Most Reliable Wireless Network



Greater Atlanta Christian School (GACS) began as an independent Christian school in the fall of 1968 and is now the second largest private school in the State of Georgia with nearly 2,000 students.

In order to achieve Greater Atlanta Christian School's aggressive 2:1 learning initiative, GACS needed to find a wireless solution that could reliably support thousands of wireless devices campus-wide. Deploying their iLearn program would introduce both a laptop and handheld device per student, requiring wireless connectivity to over 4,000 devices across their campus. Finding a hybrid device that would incorporate multiple radios to meet density demands, while at the same time reduce deployment infrastructure costs, was GACS's biggest challenge.

Aggressively Achieving 2:1 Student Initiative

Before introducing their 2:1 iLearn program, Greater Atlanta Christian School had basic wireless coverage using traditional access points. It was evident that in order to support their 2:1 student initiative a significant wireless upgrade would be required in order to achieve their density requirements.



In the fall of 1968, Greater Atlanta Christian School (GACS) first opened its doors with 150 students on its current site, in Norcross, GA. The campus has blossomed in recent years, growing from 12 to 19 buildings since 2000, with eight additional buildings completely renovated.

Infrastructure requirements included:

- Provide density requirements for their 2:1 learning initiative
- Support over 4,000 wireless devices campus-wide
- Offer a future-proof solution, scalable enough to triple bandwidth consumption

The Xirrus solution provided:

- 4 to 16 radios per Array for increased user density, reliability and access
- High-gain directional antennas for more coverage with less Arrays
- Distributed intelligence per Array simplified integration into the network
- Integrated switch, firewall and management streamlined installation and operation

Benefits:

- Xirrus used 80% fewer devices, requiring 80% fewer man-hours to deploy, saving substantially on infrastructures costs and cabling
- Achieved aggressive 2:1 iLearn initiative
- Offered superior wireless reliability campus-wide
- Delivered a scalable network, capable of expanding wireless usage well into the future

"We already knew that we needed a different wireless solution than what was currently in place, as it was not reliable enough to support our 2:1 iLearn initiative," stated Dave Bennett, director of technology at Greater Atlantic Christian School. "We've been very aggressive with our digital learning endeavors and in order to support over 4,000 wireless devices across our campus, we knew we would need a reliable wireless solution that would scale as our wireless consumption triples over the next 2-3 years."

Greater Atlanta Christian School selected Xirrus for its ability to reliably support thousands of wireless devices. With traditional wireless solutions, GACS would require one access point per classroom. In contrast to conventional thin AP plus closet controller technology, Xirrus Arrays integrate 4 to 16 radios, high-gain directional antennas, a multi-gigabit switch, controller, firewall, and threat sensor into a single access device. Together, the network provides 4X the coverage and up to 8X the bandwidth and capacity, which makes it a perfect solution for schools that are increasingly dependent on digital resources.

Since fewer Xirrus devices, cables and switches are needed campus-wide, the cost of wireless implementation and management is significantly reduced. Xirrus also provided an upgradable solution that allows the school to effortlessly expand their wireless usage well into the future.

"Xirrus shows such a high degree of professionalism in everything they do," emphasized Bennett. "Xirrus was very detailed from the site survey to the installation and we are confident in our choice to deploy Xirrus Arrays."

The Xirrus Advantage

With the explosion of smartphones and tablets, mobility has become ubiquitous. People expect to connect wirelessly. Organizations depend on high-bandwidth to send and receive voice, video and data, from any device to any one. And no one delivers better than Xirrus. Our array-based solutions are unique. They draw from cellular tower design principles to provide wired-like reliability, increased user density and capacity plus superior security. They perform under the most demanding conditions and have lower infrastructure requirements. When integrated with business and IT objectives, they help you do more than ever before.

At Xirrus, we apply the "best practices" of wired networking to wireless infrastructures by distributing the intelligence to the edge and outfitting the Array with dense multi-state radios in the same manner as a wired switch. That's how Xirrus delivers the best performing, most scalable wireless solutions in the industry. It's a strategic IT infrastructure advantage that fuels organizations. Because Xirrus does wireless networks right.



"Xirrus was more than just a supplier of equipment. They were a partner in developing the ecosystem for the infrastructure that would support and sustain the type of growth and the type of bandwidth usage expected over the next several years. That's what separated Xirrus from all the other vendors; they came in as a partner not as a vendor."

DAVE BENNETT,
director of technology, GACS



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