

Tampa Preparatory School transforms middle school classrooms using audio systems and visual displays

At Tampa Preparatory School (TPS), the administration’s goal is to equip students with skills they need to succeed before, during, and after college by providing them with applicable knowledge and 21st-century skills. To support this level of instruction, TPS implemented top-notch technology through a 1:1 iPad program. The school also transformed its middle school classrooms into “Active Learning Environments” or ALEs conceived to promote the 4 C’s of 21st-century learning: collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking.

When designing the ALEs, the school focused on providing all students with a “front of the class” position that gave them equal visual and auditory opportunities wherever they sat in the classroom.

INTERACTIVE AUDIO AND VIDEO SOLUTIONS

Finding a non-invasive audio system that worked in the ALEs was easy for TPS. The district provided every middle school teacher a Lightspeed Redcat wireless microphone

to wear. The microphones allow them to move freely around the room, and are connected to speaker systems that distribute the teachers’ voice throughout the room so that, no matter where students are in the classroom, they can clearly hear the teacher’s voice. When it comes to hearing, the Redcat audio system has effectively eliminated the “front” and “back” of the classroom.

For the visual side of the audiovisual package, TPS installed two interactive projectors and dry-erase wall coverings to create two completely interactive walls in each classroom. Teachers can project coursework or the screens of students’ tablets onto the wall for everyone to see. Students can use annotation tools, dry-erase markers, interactive pens, or the projector’s finger-touch annotation functionality to take notes or provide feedback on their classmates’ work.

“The days of teachers being tethered to the front of the classroom are over. By incorporating collaborative technology and then rethinking the structure of classrooms, the district has changed the way students learn.”

*Chad Lewis,
TPS Director of Technology*

The interactive walls, coupled with the Redcat audio systems, create a completely collaborative environment where every student can see and hear classroom conversations.



TAMPA PREPARATORY SCHOOL TAMPA, FL

CHALLENGE

Creating a 21st-century classroom to promote collaboration using audio systems and engaging visual displays.

LIGHTSPEED SOLUTION

Redcat Access Tabletop System



RESULTS

- Every student can hear the teacher from anywhere in the room
- Students are empowered to be independent learners
- Wireless capabilities allow the teacher to move freely around the room
- Students are free to collaborate on projects all around the room

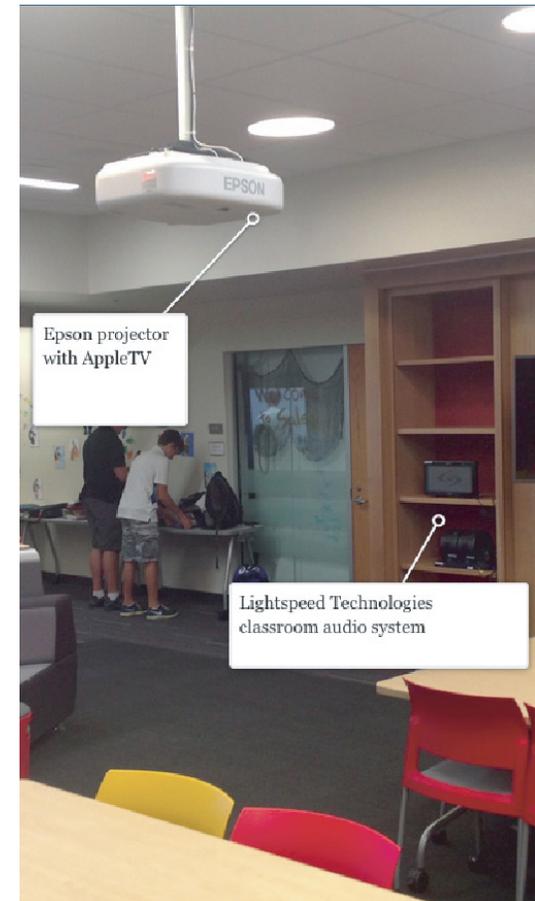
To read more about how Redcat audio systems have helped transform Tampa Preparatory School, check out [this iBook](#)

CASE STUDY

THE TEACHING SHIFT

Effectively providing students with a 21st-century education requires more than just implementing technology; it requires a shift in the way teachers teach. For example, math teachers at TPS no longer show students how to solve an equation on the whiteboard at the front of the room. Instead, they give students sample problems to try in small groups using their iPads. The groups then project a member's screen onto the wall and the entire class provides feedback or discusses additional ways to solve the equation so everyone can learn. If the math teachers want to demonstrate how to solve an equation, they project an equation onto the wall and demonstrate how to solve it from anywhere in the room with all students being able to clearly hear, even when the teachers back is to them.

Due to the success of the ALEs in middle school, TPS is now upgrading its high school classrooms to include Redcat audio systems and new projectors, so students can continue to reap the benefits of active and collaborative learning.



“The Redcat systems are amazing and our ALEs would not be the same without them. When students can clearly hear the teacher they’re more on task, and can focus more on collaborating with their fellow students while the teacher can redirect conversations from anywhere in the room.”

Chad Lewis