



CASE STUDY

New Prairie (IN) United School Corporation Eliminates Error-prone Sign-in Logs & Proactively Mitigates Risk

NEW PRAIRIE (IN) UNITED SCHOOL CORPORATION



New Prairie United Schools are in LaPorte County in northwest Indiana, 20 miles west of South Bend.

- 2972 students
- 162 teachers
- 5 schools (3 elementary, 1 middle, 1 high school) serving grades K-12

CHALLENGE

“The use of technology in the education environment—that’s my thing,” says Kyle Gottschalk, IT Building Technician with the New Prairie United School Corporation in New Carlisle, Indiana. “And as a new father, the idea that technology can help our schools be safer and more secure, that just really gives me a good feeling.” New Prairie school officials decided early in 2018 to invest in school safety technologies before they experienced a serious safety incident. It was important to them to identify exactly who was trying to enter their schools and to prevent, if possible, entry by potentially harmful individuals. In addition, they sought a solution that could help them prepare for and respond to emergencies when they did occur.

SOLUTION

“The leadership brought me onto the project at the beginning of the summer,” says Gottschalk. “My boss told me that we were going to do this, and I was the guy who was going to set it up, so I had to become familiar with their choice of systems really quickly.” Their choice of safety systems was Raptor Technologies®. Gottschalk watched demos of both the Raptor Visitor Management and Emergency Management systems. “The demos really helped me see just what these systems were all about,” continues Gottschalk, “and what I saw was really very convincing.”



Would I recommend Raptor? 100%. If it were possible to recommend Raptor even more strongly, I’d do it.

- Kyle Gottschalk, IT Building Technician, New Prairie (IN) USC



New Prairie's priority was safeguarding against entry by potentially dangerous persons, so the Raptor Visitor Management system was rolled out immediately. The Raptor® Visitor Management system enables front office staff to do away with handwritten, error-prone visitor logs. Instead, a staff member inserts every visitor's state-issued driver's license or official ID into a scanner—a process that takes only a few seconds—and screens the visitor's identifying information against sex offender registries in all 50 states as well as any locally customized do-not-admit lists. An electronic flag indicating the presence of a potential safety threat instantly alerts designated building and corporation administrators, who can immediately intercede and contact law enforcement if necessary. Approved visitors are issued an automatically-generated sticker badge printed with the visitor's name, photo (taken directly from the ID), date, time, and reason for visiting, making them easy to recognize by school staff. And of course, the system keeps complete, accurate records of every visitor at every school.

The other acquisition was Raptor's Emergency Management system, which combines proven school emergency practices with mobile technology to provide school leaders with an integrated system for emergency drills, real-time incident management, and rapid parent-student reunification following an emergency. Designated corporation leaders can conduct drills or initiate an actual emergency with the touch of a button on their smart phones or tablets. With the Raptor app, emergency commanders and other designated persons can download building schematics and emergency procedures. Leaders can see the location and status of every New Prairie student and staff member in real time for the duration of the emergency.

RESULTS

"We think that the combination of these two systems meet all our needs," says Gottschalk. "The Visitor Management system became the top priority for implementation, because it would be used by the office staff at every school every day." Gottschalk and his colleagues worked with Raptor to get Visitor Management in place and running by the end of July. "Our staff members were pretty enthusiastic about the accuracy and thoroughness of visitor screening with Raptor. They embraced it when they realized how much it would add to our campus security." Parents were somewhat less enthusiastic at first, not understanding the need to scan their IDs. "We were careful to explain just what we were doing and why. Soon, pretty much every parent got the fact that this was all about their children's safety, and they all approved."

Gottschalk is overseeing implementation for the Raptor Emergency Management system. "We're coming along. I'll eventually go to each school to oversee drills and help the staff see how the system works."

How would Gottschalk and New Prairie speak about Raptor to other school districts seeking to add extra levels of security for their students and staff? "Would I recommend Raptor? 100%. If it were possible to recommend Raptor even more strongly, I'd do it. That extra level of knowledge about who your visitors are really makes a difference. I can't recommend Raptor highly enough."

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New Prairie (IN) USC

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EVERY SCHOOL, EVERY DAY.**

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