

Advanced Wireless Communications - Intergrating new wireless technology into a bit of history.

Shattuck-St. Mary's is a prestigious private boarding school near Faribault, Minnesota. The school has a long tradition of achieving academic excellence while providing a "home away from home" for it's students

The Shattuck - St. Mary's campus is spread over acres on the bluffs of the Straight River. The campus contains of an upper school and middle school separated by a 10 minute walk. Several students dormitories are also spread across the campus.

ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Shattuck – St. Mary's Schools wanted the ability to notify students and staff of possible emergency situations, such as severe weather or other on campus emergencies. They were also looking for a more cost effective way of on-site communications to provide to their administration and maintenance staff.

With the size of the campus and the historical building structures, it would be next to impossible or extremely expensive to run a hard-wired system throughout the campus.

It was a challenge that Darrell Sorenson of Advanced Wireless had seen with other campus settings.

"We've seen this situation before. That's the beauty of wireless - it's easy to install and very, very cost effective." said Sorenson.

Advanced Wireless started with a site-survey of the campus to determine radio coverage and other needs of the school.

AWC provided Shattuck-St. Mary's with a comprehensive solution that provided portable two-way radios for the staff and a

SHATTUCK - ST. MARY'S SCHOOL - WANTED A SAFER CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT. ADVANCED WIRELESS PROVIDED A SOLUTION.



The old buildings and spread out campus provided a challenge for Shattuck-St. Mary's when looking for ways to improve safety and communication among staff and students.

wireless public address system to issue emergency notifications to classrooms and dormitories across campus.

It was also determined that Shattuck-St. Mary's would have the system installed by their Building Systems Engineering department to allow even more cost savings.

WIRELESS PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

The wireless public address system can be activated by a specialized two-way radio that contains a telephone keypad.

Once a siren is activated by entering a number code on the radio keypad, sirens throughout campus will be alerted for students and staff to hear any announcement or instructions. The system was designed so school administrators could activate the warning system by individual building or campus wide. AWC modified the Informers to allow school administrators to add additional horn speakers, allowing for better sound coverage and penetration with a lower cost.

THE WIRELESS ADVANTAGE

With the rich history of the buildings on the campus, it was very important that all was left in the way it was. With all the equipment being wireless there was no invasive installation. Also,

with the growth of the school, wireless technology gives them the flexibility to reconfigure quickly and economically, should anything change in the coming years.

“By being wireless, we were able to enrich our campus and the communication of our staff without disrupting campus life.” said Rick Dodd, Chief Financial Officer of Shattuck-St. Mary's. “AWC provided us with a solution today that allows us work with any future changes.”

A BETTER PLACE

After the installation was complete, the school tested the system by performing tornado drills during Minnesota's severe weather awareness week. They did two drills on the same day and were able to get students and staff in the sheltered areas within 5 – 6 minutes.

The most important part of this project is having peace of mind knowing the equipment is enhancing the safety and security of the students and staff who call the Shattuck-St. Mary's campus their home-away-from-home.



A repeater antenna was placed on the bell tower giving the radios and the Wireless Emergency Warning system coverage over the entire campus.

For more information about Advanced Wireless Communications and any products or services mentioned in this article, please call 800-475-5852 or visit their website at www.advancedwireless.com

