



SIEMENS

Ingenuity for life

Creating a perfect place to learn and live

Innovative technology helps Connecticut school ensure emergency communications reach students and faculty—wherever they are.

usa.siemens.com/mass-notification

In western Connecticut, the Town of Kent is home to Kent School, a private college preparatory school for nearly 600 students from 43 countries. The campus sprawls across 1,200 acres, with six dormitories, ten instructional buildings, a wide range of athletic facilities, and more than 10 miles of biking and cross-country trails.

Officials know they provide more than education. Dean of Students Cathe Mazza notes, "Their parents are entrusting their sons and daughters, their most precious beings, to us, and we have to keep them safe." As such, Kent School has dedicated its full attention and resources to this responsibility.

Expansive campus creates communication challenge

The expansive campus, situated along the historic Appalachian Trail, is one of Kent School's biggest attractions, but it presented a challenge when it comes to emergency communication. "Everybody knows the first three to five minutes are the most important in an emergency," explains Joe Wolinski, Facilities Director at Kent School. "When you're on a campus spread out like this, you have to have a way of communicating."

After thoroughly reviewing the campus's safety and security systems, the administrative and facilities teams decided it was time for an upgrade. They began researching the latest technologies as well integration partners who could help them design and implement a solution that would align with the school's unique campus.

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Jeff Cataldo
Chief Financial Officer
Kent School

A perfect place is a safe place

"The entire employee base – teachers, staff, and others at Kent School – are concerned with the safety of kids. Making sure that we're looking at the processes, technology, and procedures in place to drive that safety is key," says Jeff Cataldo, Kent School's Chief Financial Officer. He continues: "When we look at safety and security, we felt it was important to partner with an organization to provide the best systems possible to secure and add safety to our community."

Ultimately, Kent School selected Siemens as its building technology partner for both Desigo™ Mass Notification and Desigo Fire Safety Intelligent Voice Communication fire detection panels. Says Cataldo, "Siemens proved to be a true business partner in working with us to understand our concerns, to understand the issues we're trying to address, to look at the day-to-day activity that happens on campus, and the technology that would integrate well."

With Desigo Mass Notification, Kent School can rely on the latest communication platforms to help ensure emergency notifications reach everyone on campus, wherever they are. The system communicates across both networked systems, such as computers and speakers, and personal devices, such as cell phones and

laptops. The ability to provide extensive coverage is critical, particularly for campuses as large as Kent School's.

"When we looked at this mass notification solution, I said, bingo. This is what we need to do," says Wolinski.

In the event of an emergency, Desigo Mass Notification provides an easy and unified approach to integrating both Siemens and third-party devices, ensuring everyone on campus receives the right message at the right time. For example, desktop alerts are sent to all computers linked on the school's IP network while emails are sent to all current faculty, staff, students, and parents. Likewise, text messages are sent to the same groups as well as a resident state trooper. Outdoor messages can be communicated through IP-networked loudspeakers that Siemens installed throughout the campus.

Additionally, Desigo Fire Safety Intelligent Voice Communication fire panels, which have been installed as part of an ongoing upgrade to Kent School's fire detection systems, broadcast messages throughout facilities.

Peace of mind and confidence

A key feature of the Desigo Mass Notification platform is the "easy button" functionality, which enables officials to pre-set procedures and messages for different scenarios, such

as for weather or other campus situations. Kent School can initiate lockdowns, shelter-in-place, and general alarms from any laptop or mobile device that is connected to the Desigo platform.

With these new technologies and procedures, Kent School is better prepared today to reach its students, faculty, and staff in case of an emergency, and the processes have been borne out through a variety of drills. Says Mazza, "From my perspective, the speed and ability to alert people quickly and easily has made everyone relax a little bit. We're not worrying when there's a storm coming, and kids are in all different directions, about how to reach them all. We know now that we can, very easily."

Just as important, the system is providing confidence and peace of mind to school officials and parents alike. Cataldo concludes: "This is a safer environment because of the work we've done with Siemens, and because of policies and procedures we've put in place to manage the work on this campus and the activity on this campus. We all understand the importance of the mass notification system to touch every corner of this campus so that every person on campus, student or adult, can learn of an emergency situation and react to it."

Communications that reach them all.

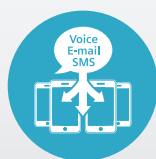
Using **Desigo MNS**, school officials have more ways to reach students and faculty with critical, emergency messages and meet **NFPA 3000™: Active Shooter/Hostile Event PS**.



Desktop Alerts



Email



Text Messages



IP Networked Loud Speakers



Voice-Enabled Fire Panels

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