

# CASE STUDY: DODDRIDGE COUNTY SCHOOLS

## Samsung School Empowers Teachers & Engages Students at Rural West Virginia District



**DODDRIDGE  
COUNTY  
SCHOOLS**

### OVERVIEW

#### Customer Need

The Doddridge County School District wanted to improve student engagement and performance at its middle school and high school through a one-to-one student computing program. In addition to choosing the right device, the district wanted to ensure it was equipping teachers with classroom management tools to create a digital learning environment that was both controlled and collaborative.

#### Samsung Solution

The district selected the Samsung School interactive learning platform with the 10.1-inch Galaxy Note tablet. The solution was initially deployed in 16 middle school classrooms, with all students receiving a tablet for use at school and home. Using the Samsung School software, teachers are able to share their screens, monitor and control student devices and utilize a range of tools for more individualized instruction and greater classroom collaboration.

#### Results

The Doddridge district has seen significant improvements in student participation and completion of homework, which has already begun to flow on to test scores. Teachers are also reinvigorated and feel they are able to better connect with students due to Samsung School. The successful deployment at Doddridge's middle school has led to the expansion of the Samsung School program to all high school classes.



**SAMSUNG**

# THE CUSTOMER

## Doddridge County Schools

The Doddridge County School District serves about 1,200 students in West Union, West Virginia, a rural community 120 miles northeast of Charleston. The district operates an elementary school, a middle school and a high school.

A large portion of the students and families served by the district are in low income brackets, with 21% of the population living below the U.S. poverty level. About 54% of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch programs.

As a remote rural district, Doddridge County School's leadership has placed a strong emphasis on providing access to computers and web-based resources to help broaden students' horizons. "Some of our students do not enjoy the same access to Internet at home as those in metropolitan school districts," says district superintendent Ora Coffman. "This means it's critical that we provide exposure to technology and digital resources in the classroom for them to acquire the 21st century skills they will need to succeed in higher education and in the workforce."

Due to the booming local oil and gas industry, Doddridge was able to secure funding for an expanded student computing program. While in the past, computers had been used sporadically in some classes, the district now sought to integrate technology in every class throughout the school day.

"We have this amazing opportunity for our students," says Darren McCullough, the district's technology coordinator. "But it was critical we chose the right solution because so often, if the technology isn't right, then teachers and students don't get the true benefit. We didn't want that to happen at Doddridge."



Teachers interact with students to deliver personalized instruction

## THE CUSTOMER NEED

### A Digital Learning Platform to Empower Teachers and Engage Students

Doddridge County School District wanted a classroom technology solution that would both empower teachers and foster greater student engagement and participation.

With the support of the community and local companies, district officials agreed to implement a one-to-one tablet computing program. The program would initially roll out to middle school classes and expand to the high school classrooms over a five-year period.

The aim was to provide each student with a tablet PC to use in class and at home. Students would use the tablets to complete homework assignments, take tests, conduct research and complete class projects.

The tablets had to be affordable, durable and easy to use for both students and teachers. School administrators also wanted a device that was light and

wouldn't weigh down backpacks, had a long battery life for all-day use, and allowed a connected keyboard so that students could work productively on assignments.

A device with a large, crisp display for comfortable reading was needed to support the districts long-term initiative of transitioning from expensive printed textbooks to digital resources.

But beyond the tablets themselves, Doddridge also looked carefully at device management and collaboration tools. "We knew that simply providing teachers and students with tablets wasn't enough," says McCullough. "We needed to ensure that teachers had control of the way the tablets were being used, and tools and applications to create an engaged, participatory learning environment. It was that management piece that would really enable our teachers to make a successful transition to one-to-one."

# THE SAMSUNG SOLUTION

## Galaxy Tablets with Samsung School Management Platform

After an extensive review, Doddridge County Schools selected Samsung's 10.1-inch Galaxy Note together with the Samsung School interactive classroom management platform.

Samsung School is a powerful one-to-one learning solution that provides teachers with a range of tools to deliver interactive digital lessons and puts them in control of the learning environment.

When introducing a new concept, the teacher can share his or her screen with the class, allowing students to follow along on their own tablets or on a classroom e-board.

Teachers can instantly launch an application on all student devices, share a resource or direct students to a website – so there is no more waiting while students get on the same page. And while the class works on a project, the teacher can easily monitor all students' screens from their own tablet to ensure everyone is on task, intervening to provide individualized instruction when needed.

"We evaluated just about every type of solution out there, and Samsung School stood apart from the rest," says McCullough. "During our training sessions, our teachers caught on very quickly with the Samsung School program. Some educational software can be hard to understand, but Samsung School was easy."

Doddridge selected the Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1 due to its strong feature set and S Pen technology, which provides accurate handwriting, drawing and supports multimedia work.

With a bright 1280 x 800 display and a battery life of up to 10 hours, the Galaxy Note also allows two applications to run side-by-side for increased productivity.

"We ended up testing seven different devices and the Galaxy Note was the best tablet for our needs," McCullough says. "We really liked the stylus, the dual-screen capability, and – with Samsung School – the ability for teachers to manage their classrooms from the tablet."

McCullough says the availability of thousands of educational apps for Android tablets on Google Play was another factor. "With Android, there are so many apps and educational resources to choose from and our teachers are also familiar with the platform, which reduces the learning curve on the devices."

Finally, Samsung's responsiveness to the district's needs was critical to its decision. "We have a good relationship with the Samsung team," he says. "During the evaluation process, it would take some vendors weeks to get back to me, but Samsung was very responsive."

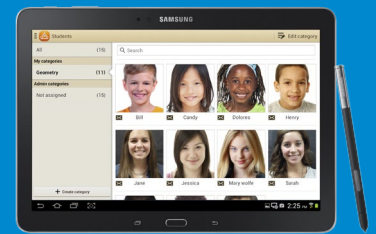


## Samsung School

### KEY FEATURES:

- **Screen Sharing** enables teachers and students to share content
- **Screen Monitoring** allows educators to remotely monitor students' progress
- **Student Device Control** to keep the class on task
- **Remote Launch** enables educators to direct all students to an app, website or resource immediately
- **Group Collaboration** allows students to work together on a single "digital canvas"
- **Content Management** lets teachers and students easily store, share and utilize digital resources
- **Instant Quizzes & Polls** enable teachers to quickly gauge student comprehension

### COMPATIBLE TABLETS



Galaxy Note 10.1



Galaxy Tab 4 Education



Samsung School facilitates group collaboration

# THE RESULTS

## Greater Classroom Interaction, Better Scores, and Improved Student Responsibility

During the first year of using the Samsung School platform with the Galaxy tablets in the middle school, McCullough says teachers witnessed a clear increase in student enthusiasm and participation in the classroom. While the one-to-one tablet implementation was originally conceived as part of a five-year technology plan, McCullough says with the help of Samsung it was up and running two years ahead of schedule.

Students, many of whom have grown up utilizing touch-screen technology, have found the tablets intuitive and more adaptable to how they learn, which makes classes more fun and engaging.

“With the tablets, students are more motivated to study and participate in classes,” says Alan Snodgrass, who teaches 8th grade social studies and history at Doddridge Middle School. “Going one-to-one with Samsung School has helped students perform better with state standardized tests because of their comfort and familiarity with the technology. It’s great seeing the kids use the tablets, seeing the increased interest

in doing their homework, and knowing how this will roll over into their careers.”

Snodgrass and other teachers use the Samsung School solution to monitor students as they work on their tablets. If students start going off task, he can guide them back on task, or if needed, disable their devices. Snodgrass also uses Samsung School to create lessons and shares learning resources on an e-board for the class. He can then assign a student as the presenter, so that they can share their work with the class.

Overall, he says Samsung School enables him to better connect with his students who are more comfortable with a touchscreen than a chalkboard. “As a young teacher, I know how to relate to this generation of students through technology,” says Snodgrass. “It’s a part of their lives. It’s what they spent so much time interacting with outside of school. So if we approach students with paper and pencil, they’re not going to be as motivated to learn as they would with the tablets. Samsung School really helps us connect with our students.”

Being responsible for the safety and care of the devices has also created a greater sense of responsibility for many of the students. Students are required to charge the tablets at home and are encouraged to use them as an alarm clock to make it a part of their daily routine. When students graduate middle school, the tablets will be theirs to keep, providing an additional incentive to take good care of them.

Doddridge School District administrators were so pleased with the initial rollout to the middle school, they have already expanded the Samsung School program to the high school.

“Our students have grown up on smartphones and tablets, so classrooms must provide a technology-driven learning environment that meets their needs,” says Superintendent Coffman. “Samsung School better enables us to help students develop the critical 21st century skills needed for their futures in college and the workforce.”



Teachers use Samsung School to monitor the class



Students follow along with the teacher's lesson

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