



Haltom High School

Customer case study

TECHNOLOGY/PRODUCTS

- Fargo DTC500 Direct-to-Card Printer/Encoder

TOP REASONS WHY HALTOM HIGH SCHOOL CHOSE FARGO PRINTERS FOR THIS PROJECT:

- Easy for faculty to use
- Reliability to avoid printer breakdowns
- Price that fits within the school's budget

"Since the ID card program was implemented, in-school suspensions have gone down substantially."

*Rick Mauderer
Associate Principal,
Haltom High School*

Use of ID cards prevents school drug deal at Haltom High School

The Challenge

Administrators at Haltom High School in Haltom City, Texas, wanted their school's ID cards to be useful, but never did they imagine the cards would help to thwart a drug dealer. Haltom High School is one of four high schools in the district, which also comprises 21 elementary schools and seven middle schools. It is sometimes subject to gang activity with instances of students from other schools trying to get inside Haltom High School.

"We have used student and faculty ID cards for the last decade," said Rick Mauderer, associate principal, Haltom High School, and the person responsible for the school's ID program. "As a high school of more than 2,600 students, there is no way we can know who every student is, especially with substitute teachers in the building, so we require that all students possess and wear a proper, non-defaced school ID on a lanyard around the neck." With the ebb and flow of new students, teachers make monthly ID compliance sweeps to ensure that every student in their room has a proper ID. Students without are sent to the office for a duplicate, at a cost of \$5 per card. "We sometimes make 200 IDs on a sweep day," Mauderer said.

"One day in October, we had just performed an ID sweep, and I was in the cafeteria, enjoying seeing all of the cards on lanyards visible on the students," said Mauderer. "I spotted a student without an ID card. When I asked him about it, he said he had lost it. When I asked for the name of his home room teacher, he said he couldn't remember. I decided to take him to the office to look up his schedule, at which time he darted out the front door of the building. Fortunately, security cameras captured his photo, which I e-mailed to other high schools in the area. When he was found and searched, he was carrying several small packages of drugs, ready for sale."

Solution Found

In 1999, the school began printing ID cards in-house to save time and money. "Card production used to be a laborious multi-step process with photos cut and pasted to tagboard and then laminated," said Mauderer. "It was a five-person process and presented a huge log jam at registration. Now it only takes one person in Student Services to print our ID cards. We went from a six or seven-minute process to one that takes only a minute or two. In addition, the quality went up, and we were able to add a bar code to include private information for students and faculty."

Mauderer now uses a Fargo DTC500 Direct-to-Card Printer/Encoder to produce the cards. "At first, we leased extra printers from a supplier during our busiest time, which is registration," he said. "The Fargo printers he brought in were much faster than the printers we owned, so we just decided to buy Fargo equipment. That was two years ago, and we haven't looked back." Bill Davis of A Photo ID, Inc., the Fargo solution provider, said, "Rick was looking for something that was easy to use, reliable and at the right price point. The Fargo equipment had all of the features he was looking for."

ID cards are used by faculty, students and administrators. The back of the card is printed in advance with useful information, such as the school's daily schedule and frequently called phone numbers. For faculty, that includes counselor numbers with the alphabetical breakdown of student names, as well as numbers for a substitute teacher resource. For students, it includes numbers for the nurse's office, the associate principals and the attendance office, as well as a





few policy reminders. Administrator cards include home and cell phone numbers for key staff. The school also uses ID cards to help with the problem of students skipping first and seventh periods. The cards include the teachers' names for those blocks of time. "We had to do some data mining with our IT department," said Mauderer, "but it was worth it. We tell the students if their schedule changes, the school will replace the card, but if they change their schedule because they don't like their teacher, it will cost them \$5. This has reduced the number of schedule changes."

Students are notoriously hard on their possessions, so Mauderer likes the durability of the ID cards the school is using now. "Students used to pull their old cards apart," he remembered, "and if the cards went through the laundry, they were of no use to anyone. PVC cards are virtually indestructible." Mauderer and one of the students' fathers played tug-of-war with two ID cards on lanyards, and the cards didn't break. "This was proof positive of their strength," he said.

Students, however, still find creative ways to avoid wearing the card. Common excuses, according to Mauderer, include bogus neck allergies to the lanyard and perceived religious restrictions. Cards also end up with moustaches or glasses added for flair, or a student will paste a photo of his girlfriend on the card. None of these activities gets a good grade with Mauderer. "We usually make three or four replacement cards every day," he said. Students pay \$5 initially for each card and then another \$5 if the card needs to be replaced because it was lost, damaged or defaced. Students who give their ID card to a friend end up with an in-school suspension. "It's against the law to have a fraudulent ID in real life," Mauderer said. "The same holds true here." Students with no identification receive an in-school suspension, because administrators believe they pose a security risk. "Since the ID card program was implemented, in-school suspensions have gone down substantially," he said.

Results

Today, the ID cards at Haltom High School serve multiple purposes. In addition to providing visual identification, they are used in the library, in the cafeteria and for athletic events. They also are checked by school van and bus drivers before students are allowed to ride. "No ID, no bus ride," said Mauderer.

Davis said he sees a trend toward more middle schools using ID cards, as well as schools using databases to export data to a PDA. This enables administrators to pull up data remotely on students from other areas of the school.

Haltom High School has found an additional, creative way to use its ID cards. "We have a significant problem with students who can't seem to get out of 9th grade," said Mauderer. The school prints its ID cards in five different colors: green for freshmen, blue for sophomores, orange for juniors and black for seniors. Older 9th graders, most of whom are boys, get pink. "They don't like that," he said. "It actually motivates them to get out of 9th grade sooner."

"Students get in trouble when they don't know expectations," Mauderer said. "We have a system in place that works. We're aggressive about it. It's part of our work ethic." And on that day back in October, it kept students of Haltom High School safe from a potential drug dealer from a neighboring school.

HID CORPORATION
AMERICAS &
HEADQUARTERS
15370 Barranca Pkwy
Irvine, CA 92618
U.S.A.
Phone: (800) 237-7769
Tel: +1 (949) 732-2000
Fax: +1 (949) 732-2360

HID CORPORATION
ASIA PACIFIC
19/F 625 King's Road
North Point, Island East
Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 3160-9800
Fax: (852) 3160-4809

HID CORPORATION, LTD
EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST, AND
AFRICA
Haverhill Business Park
Phoenix Road
Haverhill, Suffolk
CB9 7AE
England
Phone: +44 (0) 1440 714 850
Fax: +44 (0) 1440 714 840

