

OVERVIEW

Levine Academy is a Private Preparatory Middle School specializing in educating children from preschool age through grade eight to help ensure their admission to the high school of their choosing. Not only do they teach their students the Hebrew language as well as Judaic Studies, but they also have a rigorous core academic program in English, Science, Math, Social Studies, and Language Arts. With such a comprehensive academic start at Levine Academy, kids are placed into a whole array of both private competitive schools and select versions of Dallas Independent School District (ISD) high schools offering special programs throughout the area. While the pursuit of knowledge governs their curriculum, they also focus on inspiration as a means to foster problem-solving, and building character with strong sense of pride in their Judaic heritage that will last a lifetime.

Tom Elieff joined Levine Academy 8 years ago as the Head of School and has been in the field of education, theory, and instructional strategies for 35 years. In his day-to-day, he oversees eight or nine administrative reports and he himself reports to the Board of Trustees. Tom is devoted to carrying out the Levine Academy mission and is hands-on with every aspect of school operations, including the IT systems that have become essential to delivering positive learning experiences to every student. Over his years working in education, he has seen every significant shift in academic technology and understands how important it is to make sure Levine Academy has the best IT solutions.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Over the last few decades, educational technology has skyrocketed in its usefulness for educators worldwide and it can be challenging to keep up. For Levine Academy, it has been a strategic point of focus to provide the most up-to-date systems so their students and teachers have every advantage in the classroom. In fact, they have been so forward thinking about the tools they've chosen to implement over the years that Levine Academy has earned many certifications that most middle schools could never strive to achieve. Partnering with Meriplex as a managed service provider takes the pressure off because it is their business to know what technology is new and up-and-coming so the Levine Academy educators can focus on educating.

"I've just been amazed at how advanced and how commensurate with the sophistication of education that technology has become in recent years. With that, it has become so much more important to have all these systems ready with the infrastructure in place and a level of flexibility with adaptations to help us deliver on available technologies. Probably the biggest change I've seen in the last 35 years is that you have to stay current on what's new out there and a lot of schools struggle to keep up, but Meriplex makes it easier for us"

In addition to staying apprised of and implementing new innovations, Levine Academy has utilized their partnership with Meriplex to make sure their environment is upgraded in time to deliver those tools. Whether it is maintaining smart boards in the classrooms, WiFi that is wall-to-wall, or their classroom on wheels, Meriplex is able to deliver for them so that every student has the opportunity to have a one-on-one computer experience. It is this attention to detail and steadfast resolve to provide the very best that helps Levine Academy provide such a high-level education to their students.

“Over the years we’ve adopted several systems that all have a separate but equally valuable function. In addition to our academic software system, we have the administrative software, as well as the systems we use in the financial and registrar’s office, all of which involves a lot of people. On top of that, even though we consider ourselves a small independent school, we have five or six hundred machines operating here. Meriplex has been there to help us every step of the way to make sure that we have the capacity to stay operational. They’re expertise helps us implement the right equipment and they maintain those vendor relationships with source companies for us. It’s that level of knowledge and service that has kept us from ever shutting down. That’s a bit of trust and confidence that is so important to run a school these days.”

RELATIONSHIPS MAKE A GREAT PARTNERSHIP

Meriplex and Levine Academy have built a partnership based on good communication and great relationships. As a managed service provider, Meriplex strives to assign a team of experts to every client so that they really understand the business they are serving. This cuts down on response time and allows technicians to become knowledgeable advocates who understand their clients’ needs.

“A partnership like we have with Meriplex is very important because on one hand, we’ve been able to develop long-standing relationships with the folks who are assigned to us and they’ve become very verse and attentive to our school needs. We don’t need to give much explanation or laborious prep work for them to know what the problem is. I think that makes them really good advocates, helping us with IT supplier issues and intervening on our behalf when necessary. But also, that relationship enables Meriplex to assess both our short-term and long-term needs so when strategic issues come up, they understand what’s best for us to move things forward. I think that’s very, very valuable.”

STANDING APART

It can be difficult to really stand apart from your competitors, especially in the field of education. Levine Academy in partnership with Meriplex has been able to thread that needle of excellence because they have an entire IT company monitoring their systems and making sure there are no operational disruptions. Meriplex is able to look ahead and foresee what problems might be emerging, rather than just reacting to issues after it is too late. This gives Levine Academy’s teachers and students a necessary life line to ensure their programs keep advancing.

“Having a partner like Meriplex with their main group of personnel working with us and getting to know us over the years is tremendously valuable because they understand our budgets and our limitations as well as our desire and appetite to continuously improve our programs. While it’s hard to measure the advantage this partnership gives us compared to our competitors, I do know this, that other private schools depend quite a bit on hiring their own IT experts. With Meriplex as a partner, I have never had to hire any IT personnel because I know we have an entire company there to supply the best knowledge and expertise available. So we’re not depending on just one individual, we have a whole team of experts to rely on and we know they’re there to back us up as it were.”