



Montessori School of Dayton

TOGETHER FOR SAFER SCHOOLS

Grant Program Provides Security Installation

By Paul Hevesy

ESTABLISHED IN 2013, STANLEY SECURITY'S INAUGURAL K-12 installation of its *TOGETHER FOR SAFER SCHOOLS* Grant Program signified the ever-increasing importance of the ongoing national conversation on school and campus safety. For the nearly 55 million students enrolled annually in both public and private pre-kindergarten, elementary and secondary schools throughout the U.S., the widespread need for a culture of sanctuary is mounting.



Montessori School of Dayton classmates thank STANLEY Security for the \$100,000 security grant provided to the school with a student-run performance for members of the community.

To provide peace of mind for countless parents, administrators and faculty members who serve as guardians and educators for millions of students, STANLEY Security created the *TOGETHER FOR SAFER SCHOOLS* Grant Program. The program offers all K-12 institutions in the continental U.S. the opportunity to enhance their school's security systems through a share of a \$500,000 grant.

In its first year, the national contest saw nearly 1,000 K-12 schools nominated across the country during the 45-day nomination period in September and October 2013, with at least one school represented from each state within the United States. With nominations finalized, the schools then engaged in a voting rally, encouraging entire student bodies, faculties, parents and the surrounding communities to vote daily online via the company's specified voting website and through text messaging.

By the contest's end, four winning schools had racked up the most votes in the nation, awarding the first-place school \$200,000 and the three runners-up \$100,000 each in STANLEY Security-installed products and consultative security services. The winning schools represented various regions throughout the U.S., with first-place

Faith Christian Academy in Sellersville, Pa., and runners-up South Pointe Elementary in Miami Beach, Fla., Pioneer Elementary in Auburn, Wash., and the Montessori School of Dayton in Kettering, Ohio.

With approximately two million votes cast throughout the run of the contest, the response was overwhelming. Particularly for the Montessori School of Dayton, the community's enthusiasm for the celebrated institution and for protecting the lives of its students and faculty translated into an awe-inspiring victory—and first-class security solution—with a lasting, positive impact.

Montessori School of Dayton: A Trusted Institution

Founded in 1964, the Montessori School of Dayton has grown to be recognized as the largest private school in the Dayton area that offers a Montessori style of education. Serving students from toddler years through eighth grade, the Montessori School of Dayton enrolls approximately 115 students each year to participate in an open and proactive learning environment.

Beyond its walls, the school found support with a widespread community that reached far beyond the Dayton



Intruder lock function from STANLEY Mechanical Security that was installed on classroom doors at the Montessori School of Dayton

and Midwest regions to international communities around the world. Throughout the grant program, the school engaged the resources of its loyal alumni networks and worldwide connections offered through the Montessori educational community to secure \$100,000 of STANLEY Security-installed products and services, which were fully implemented at the facility in 2014.

In the design and execution of the security installation, STANLEY focused on providing a comprehensive, total solution that would serve to bring the decades-old school building into the 21st century. This thorough solution featured significant security upgrades and the seamless integration of a number of essential systems throughout the school's campus.

In keeping with the parameters dictated by the grant, the company assumed the cost of \$100,000 of the security enhancements proposed and installed all components, including verified alarm monitoring services, a comprehensive video surveillance and video management

solution with updated cameras to provide interior and exterior coverage, an integrated intercom system, intruder function locksets for classrooms, and fire system monitoring.

"At the time of the installation, the school was in the midst of celebrating its 50th anniversary," says Dave Errera, Regional Sales Manager for STANLEY Security. "So when we conceived this security solution, we wanted to account for that established longevity and to consider the specific needs to be met and lessons learned over all those years that the school's doors had been opened."

A Comprehensive, Total Solution

When first evaluating the necessary upgrades to be completed at the school, STANLEY proposed a number of hardware replacements and enhancements. This included outfitting nearly every door at the school with new locking hardware and deploying its premier patented BEST CORMAX keying system, offering convenient, high-security key control to authorized users.

For entryway doors and exterior access points, heavy-duty exit devices were installed to ensure smooth, easy egress in the event of an emergency. For all classroom doors, STANLEY implemented its intruder function lock, allowing teachers to quickly and discreetly lock classrooms from inside instead of being forced to venture out into hallways and common areas should an intruder or outside threat gain entry into the school. Critical doors were also outfitted with electric strikes to allow for centralized access control within the school's newly integrated security, surveillance and fire safety systems, provided through the grant program.

An extensive interior and exterior video surveillance system was deployed throughout the building and at primary exterior access points, featuring 12 three-megapixel cameras. In addition to the installation of the enhanced cameras, a fully integrated video management solution, including a robust network video recorder, 16 port POE switches, and a 32" wall-mounted LCD public viewing

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monitor was provided. These elements were all incorporated together through a cohesive video management software platform with mobile management capabilities that could be accessed via authorized phones, tablets and other mobile devices.

A video intercom system was also installed at the school's main indoor station, located at the front receptionist's desk, with sub-master stations established in the principal's office and at the main office desk. Door stations provide surveillance, communications and access control at the front and parking lot entrances. Through the use of these integrated devices, school officials have the ability to control access to the building from a number of centralized stations located throughout the facility, with the power to view and assess the status of all individuals approaching and leaving the school.

By providing a fully integrated video surveillance platform with a valuable video intercom feature, including mobile management services and maintenance plans for all components, STANLEY offered the school a more streamlined operations process and flexibility for future advancement. This interconnected approach presented the organization as a go-to resource and true partner to the Montessori School of Dayton and allowed the school to retain current structures while still moving forward with new, augmented products.

Verified Detection and Monitoring Services

A crucial component of the installation to supplement the enhanced video surveillance system was the implementation of Sonitrol verified alarm monitoring services, intrusion detection and managed access control, all provided by Sonitrol of southwest Ohio. Via Sonitrol's verified, impact-activated audio surveillance services, school officials can be assured that there is a 24/7 operator monitoring the property and school assets at all times when the system is armed.

Backed by human intelligence from a local monitoring station, Sonitrol offers 100 percent volumetric wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling protection, detecting any unusual or threatening sounds. Highly trained operators listen in and verify—in real time—and accurately determine the category of the threat in order to decide whether or not to immediately dispatch law enforcement.

The upgrade to Sonitrol alarm verification technology offers the school a monitoring resource that is trusted by law enforcement nationwide and that is unmatched in effective apprehensions—with more than 172,000 and counting—and preventive security measures.

To additionally bolster the facility's remote monitoring protections, widespread fire detection and monitoring were incorporated within the security measures provided through

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the school's winning portion of the grant. STANLEY's ProtectionNet Monitoring Center (PNC) provides state-of-the-art, 24-hour fire system and integration management, as well as alarm and video monitoring services. Monitored remotely by expert operators, the PNC offers focused monitoring of all fire and life safety systems to ensure that the school premises will be protected from theft and fire damage.

system's components, and verification of a functional, effective communication link between the school and the remote monitoring PNC.

A Lasting Security Partnership

Throughout the proposal, design and installation processes, STANLEY Security presented itself as an instrumental partner in finding a means of best securing the Montessori School of Dayton's campus.

For STANLEY Security, the comprehensive installation only furthers the gratification of being able to provide a total security solution to a school community in need.

"As a partner to more than 10,000 schools and educational institutions, we truly understand the security needs of any learning environment, and our expertise in risk assessment allows us to design and implement the most effective, comprehensive solution possible," Errera says. "We're honored to have been given the opportunity to work with the Montessori School of Dayton and offer a security solution that we believe will serve as the foundation for generation upon generation of safe, active and stimulating learning."

Note: At the time of publication of this article, STANLEY Security received information about a break-in attempt at the Montessori School of Dayton that occurred when school was out of session for the holidays that was thwarted due to the new security measures. Video surveillance shows four suspects approaching the building, with two males climbing onto the roof and attempting to gain entry by breaking through a skylight. That triggered an alarm, and police were immediately dispatched to the scene. [dlh](#)

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A member of the Kettering Police Department; Toby Meixner, Director of the Montessori School of Dayton; and Tim Meixner, President of the school, accept the TOGETHER FOR SAFER SCHOOLS grant award from STANLEY Security.

Fire detection devices, heat detectors and smoke detectors will signal the PNC if an alarm is triggered, and monitoring specialists will then immediately dispatch the local fire department and notify the school that an alarm has been received. Through the provisions of the grant, STANLEY will also engage in annual fire system tests and inspections at the facility, with scheduled appointments that include a visual inspection of devices, operational test of the

"This [was] very exciting for the whole school and our entire community. We are extremely grateful to STANLEY Security for its generosity," says Tim Meixner, President of the Montessori School of Dayton. "Their quality products and expert staff made the process of upgrading our security and fire alarm system worry-free. Our faculty, students and families can look forward to another 50 years of exceptional learning in a secure campus."