



A Long Tradition of God's Work Made Easier with x2VOL

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St. Agnes Academy, Memphis

Contemplation with Action

St. Agnes Academy has been at the core of Catholic Education in Memphis since the school was founded in 1851. Education at St. Agnes has always been guided by commitment to Catholic principals and Dominican spirituality but the school also has a progressive approach to technology. St. Agnes administrators embraced 1:1 education as soon as the millennial clock ticked into the 2000's. All students are equipped with laptops and nearly every educational and social program involves some aspect of technology.

In addition to providing an excellent education, the St. Agnes tradition stresses combining contemplation with action. That "action" brings students actively into the community where they work on dozens of charitable activities developed either of their own initiative or in the service of other organizations. Students often far exceed the 100-hour requirement for graduation.

Technologically Progressive

Freedom of choice and the sheer volume of hours make running this ambitious program difficult but in 2010 when staff started using x2VOL to manage, track, and report

community service digitally, the administrative burden eased tremendously. Gretchen Kirk, director of religious education, described it as a transition bringing the school out of the dark ages. "We have always been a technologically progressive school but we were stuck in a manual system that was cumbersome and time-consuming. **x2VOL moved our service program into alignment with the rest of our technology culture.**"

In theory, managing St. Agnes' community service program was simple: students submitted a form at the end of each service activity, the advisor signed off, stored it in a three-ring binder and manually recorded the hours in a log book tracking every student's efforts. One teacher was assigned to manage each class, either the freshmen, sophomores, juniors or seniors. But as student hours accumulated, so too did the width of the log book and burden each teacher carried. There are over 350 students at St. Agnes. With 100 students per class, one teacher could be monitoring **3,000 hours** or more per year.



Community Service at the Heart

Students at St. Agnes Academy give hundreds of hours to service needs like reading to students at a local elementary school. To make management easier, administrators use x2VOL to manage paperwork and make reporting easier.



Easing the Management Burden

Teachers could be monitoring 3,000 hours per year. x2VOL frees up time to guide students as they embody Faith in action.

Teachers Now Have Time to Teach

The individual or daily tasks weren't overwhelming with the old system but the cumulative needs were. End-of-year reporting and summarizing hours for awards programs or for confirming graduation placed enormous strain on each advisor's already full plate.

x2VOL Eliminated Paperwork

Sixteen-year veteran teacher, Mary Miller, sums up how x2VOL eliminated the paperwork hassle. "Paper submission and management was a nightmare!" Students had to get a form at school and sometimes they would forget to take it to the charitable organization. That simple misstep meant students couldn't recall everything they had done and couldn't adequately write about their efforts. Once the form was submitted (either on time or late), teachers had to approve each form by hand and record it on the log sheet.

Ms. Miller said, "The sheer busy-ness of this task put it pretty low on the 'need to do list'. We teachers would put off our recording duties and then scramble at the end of the year."

x2VOL completely eliminated the nightmarish task of the old paper-based system. "Now It takes me about two hours to review and approve the entire freshman class' submissions. That is 96 students, done in two hours. Not two weeks." adds Ms. Miller with a smile and a satisfied nod.

Students Benefit

The x2VOL advantage isn't lost on students either. "I'm much better organized with x2VOL," says Hanna Sampietro, a sophomore who has logged over 200 service hours in less than two years. Hanna had been at a different school, one that used paper and binders. "I like that x2VOL can print out my service hours quickly. I use these for my involvement in Key Club and for my portfolio."

For the students at St. Agnes--many of whom are high-achieving either academically, service-wise, or in other categories—x2VOL fills their need for expediency and sophistication. "I like the x2VOL mobile app," remarks Margie Anderson, a senior. Margie and three other students created "Color my World," a service project recognized with a Gold Banner by the Jefferson Award for Public Service. Like most students, Margie relies on her iPhone® for everything. Getting things done with an app is a way of life. "x2VOL is on my iPhone, so I take care of my reporting sitting in my car right when I'm finished with my service."

Teachers can also approve hours and run reports anywhere they have an Internet connection or wherever they are with their iPhone or Android® mobile device. "Having access to x2VOL from anywhere or at any time is what makes the difference between community service being easy to manage or being cumbersome and discouraging. We are no longer bogged down in the minutia of tracking hours. With x2VOL we are free to develop a program of service and concentrate on guiding our students," adds Mrs. Kirk.



"...That is 96 students done in two hours. Not two weeks"



With x2VOL there is more time for teachers and students to do God's work at St. Agnes and the community is richer for its service and commitment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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