



How Teacher Microphones Helped Facilitate A Successful School Reopening During Covid-19

Reopening At-a-Glance

- **Teaching Model:**

HyFlex (Hybrid-Flexible): all in-class instruction is livestreamed to remote learners



- **Attendance at reopen:**

80% in-class; 20% remote

- **Video Conferencing Application:**



Summary

TeachLogic® microphones and speakers have made the learning environment accessible for both in-person and virtual learners as they allow students to remain engaged, actively participate, and excel whether in person or from home. Teachers at St. Francis School are now able to teach effectively to all students.

The Challenge

As the 2020-2021 academic year rapidly approached, St. Francis School in Vista, CA, found itself in the difficult position of committing to a reopening plan without knowing exactly how to do it safely and effectively.

Potentially even more difficult, was figuring out the most effective way to teach students, considering the language barrier that currently exists at the school: while 25% of St. Francis School's students are English-language learners, more than 50% of the students do not speak English as a primary language.

The school prepared for a HyFlex (hybrid-flexible) model of instruction, where some students would attend class in person, while others would practice distance learning. The technological complexity of blending two different classroom environments was a huge challenge in itself, but nonetheless, a challenge that had to be solved when the school reopened.

"We knew how to support in-person learning and in Spring we had learned to support distance learning, but we didn't know how we'd blend those two together without negatively impacting one or both sets of students. TeachLogic's system was the missing piece to our hybrid reopening."

The Solution

Using Zoom video conferencing combined with a TeachLogic® audio system connected to the teacher's computer, St. Francis was able to synchronize the in-person classroom experience with distance learning for its students. Remote learners are not only able to see their teacher and the visual displays in the classroom, but they can also hear their teacher clearly as he/she moves around the room. Additionally, live video of the remote learners is displayed on a dedicated screen and each of the students is easily heard clearly through TeachLogic® classroom speakers. These innovative products have allowed St. Francis teachers to teach with confidence knowing they are reaching all students and keeping them engaged during the learning process.



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Why TeachLogic?

- *Designed specifically for teachers*
- *Lightest pendant microphone on the market*
- *Teachers can take the microphone from room to room and it works instantly*
- *Doesn't sacrifice health and safety requirements*
- *Easy to connect to a computer for use with video conferencing*

The Outcome

According to Principal Elizabeth Joseph, the use of microphones and speakers at St. Francis played a major role in ensuring effective learning when students finally returned to school – both in person and at home. *“We knew how to support in-person learning. We had even learned how to support distance learning in Spring, but we didn't know how to blend those two together without negatively impacting one or both sets of students. TeachLogic's system was the missing piece to our hybrid reopening,”* said Joseph.

When used in tandem, TeachLogic microphones and speakers have made the 2020 COVID-19 learning environment accessible for both in-person and virtual learners; they allow students to remain engaged, actively participate, and excel whether in person or from home.

Teachers are now delivering traditional in-class instruction with minimal modifications to accommodate distance learning.

In-class students benefit from hearing their distance-learning peers' questions and responses through the classroom speakers.

Teachers can move freely around the room without straining their voices and frequently repeating instructions.

St. Francis School's Video Conferencing Setup:

Each teacher's computer is connected via USB splitter (mic input, speaker output) to two 3.5 mm audio cables connected to a TeachLogic Forum™ 232 amplifier.

- 4 TeachLogic speakers are mounted overhead to evenly distribute the sound throughout the room (over the acrylic shields on students' desks).
- Each teacher uses a TeachLogic IRT-60 Sapphire™ pendant microphone to overcome muffling of their face mask/shield, and to ensure that they are heard clearly by students, both in person and online.
- A clip-on USB camera is placed in the center of the room so the teacher can rotate the camera between front-facing and classroom-facing views.