



**THOMAS HART**  
A C A D E M Y

*Growing non-profit school gets a solid technology foundation to educate from*

## IT Strategy to Plan for the Future

*HillSouth brings a holistic approach to design*

Prior to working with HillSouth iT Solutions, Thomas Hart Academy had purchased IT equipment as needed. The school requested a plan for a stable data network ready for continued growth and new features.

HillSouth worked with the school and engineered a two phased approach to build a new IT foundation for the future. First, CAT5 wiring would be upgraded to allow physical connections for the network into every classroom. Any switches that were small would be eliminated—centralizing the switches would make the network easier to maintain and troubleshoot. The wireless coverage was mapped out and a plan to improve it was developed. All switches were standardized and replaced and the servers moved to a secure location.

Finally, in the second phase, HillSouth worked to engineer a new desktop computer lab and a roaming laptop cart that would allow more classrooms to have access to technology and that would run over the redesigned wireless network.

## School Ready Features

*Modern technology at the core*

A device in every closet many companies can take for granted is their firewall. In a school environment though—the firewall becomes an essential utility on the network to protect students and faculty from inappropriate content as well as malicious attempts to gain access to the network. HillSouth recognized this when designing the new Thomas Hart Academy network and recommended state of the art Meraki security appliances to bring a new set of features to the defense of the school's network.

The Meraki appliance monitors and defends around the clock intrusion attempts into the network. The new firewall also brings the very latest in content filtering to block undesirable web content inside a database of billions of website addresses. Finally, the appliance also protects against malware and phishing (deceiving users into divulging their passwords) attacks.

*"Our relationship with HillSouth began just a year ago. The representatives of HillSouth have been very patient and attentive to our needs. We have always felt like HillSouth cares about our success and we are not just another number. It has been reassuring knowing someone has our best interests at heart."*

**Amy Jenner** *Head of School*

## Safety and Security

*School safety is improved with IP Phones*

The existing telephone system and paging apparatus were really showing their age and did not provide the ability to have instant communications with every classroom. Building upon the new data network a new Avaya IP Office telephony system was installed. Now, every classroom has a phone, with paging, that runs over the same IP network as the computers and wireless systems.

One highly reliable and functional network to manage give Thomas Hart Academy peace of mind that their school is ready to continue its mission of building strong foundations for a life me.

### Key Services From HillSouth

- Datacenter Co-Location
- Managed IT Services
- Hosted Microsoft Exchange E-Mail
- Vendor Management
- Strategy and Consulting/Planning

### Client Profile

- Established in 1970
- Over 200 students enrolled from 3K to 9th
- Based in Hartsville, South Carolina

**HillSouth**



iT solutions.

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