

CUSTOMER SUCCESS



Sage MIP Fund Accounting passes the test for DuBois Area Catholic School System

The DuBois Area Catholic School System offers a catholic education for students from pre-school through 12th grade all under one roof. The school's mission is to provide a high quality education at a lower cost. To that end, it worked to combine seven individual parish schools into one regional school. The new facility opened in September 2002, and is considered the flagship school of the diocese. The school takes advantage of the latest computer technologies and prides itself on delivering a high-quality, modern education to its pupils. Sage MIP Fund Accounting is the tool the school relies on to manage its finances.

Gene Miller is the Deacon on staff who is responsible for implementing a modern business management system to match the school's educational excellence. "When I came on board, they had a hodgepodge of software systems to do the books here," Miller recalls. "The information we had was very summarized, and people constantly had questions about budget: whose budget is this, where does that line item belong, and so forth."

Benefits of Automation

Miller knew he needed accounting software designed for nonprofit organizations, but he had to sell the school board on the idea first. By showing the board the benefit of departmentalizing the school and assigning budget amounts to each area, he was able to convince them that a software investment would be well worth the cost. Miller was already familiar with Sage Software from his public accounting background, and a demonstration by a local Sage MIP Fund Accounting consultant quickly convinced him and the school board that it was the right product for the job.

Ledger Account Segmentation Is Key

The key to the power of Sage MIP Fund Accounting for the DuBois Area Catholic School System is the ability to have several general ledger account segments, so that budgets can be allocated appropriately. "We customized the program to our exact specifications with the help of our consultant," Miller says. "At the top level we have six funds, then a separate segment for grants and student activities, which can also be a part of the funds, and finally departments."

Customer:

DuBois Area Catholic School System

Industry:

Education—Private School K-12

Location:

DuBois, Pennsylvania

Number of Locations: 1

Number of Employees: 75

System:

Sage MIP Fund Accounting

- General Ledger
- Accounts Payable
- Bank Reconciliations
- Data Import/Export
- Direct Deposit
- Payroll

CHALLENGE

A regional Catholic school system had no visibility into available budgets or accountability for expenditures. On-demand checks were still being typed on a typewriter. Payroll check stubs lacked important information.

SOLUTION

Sage MIP Fund Accounting, with general ledger accounts properly segmented, provides detailed budget reporting. Fully integrated Accounts Payable and Payroll provide effective solutions for AP check writing and Payroll check stub needs.

RESULTS

Budget visibility at all levels creates accountability and ownership of costs. Accounts Payable check processing time was reduced from over 2 hours a day to 30 minutes. Payroll processing time was reduced from a half-day to 45 minutes.

Budget Visibility and Control

With the General Ledger properly set up, the days of constant budget questions were over. “We budget separately for everything from the National Honor Society to the school prom,” Miller says. “I can generate statements on every single student activity, and it will slice and dice the school any way I want. I can generate reports with everything included, or surgically remove items I don’t want in the report. I can even include comparative statements if needed.”

Budget Accountability

Since creating the departments with separate budgets, Miller has noticed that people take ownership of their own costs, transforming themselves from academics to power managers. At any given time, there may be fifty fundraising activities going on, including dues-based clubs such as the student council. The account segmentation in Sage MIP Fund Accounting allows Miller to isolate each one of the activities and tell the supervisor of the activity how they are doing. “As a result, people feel accountable and protective of their dollars,” Miller says.

Time and Labor Savings

Sage MIP Fund Accounting solved the school’s budgeting issues, but it has also streamlined many other business processes. Before Sage MIP Fund Accounting was purchased, there was a general ledger software product, a home-grown accounts payable package, a tailor-made payroll system, and QuickBooks for managing student activities. “For checks that needed to be written on the spot, we had a typewriter,” Miller reminisces. The school now runs with two people in the business office, Miller and an assistant. “Sage MIP Fund Accounting has helped us increase efficiency so we can improve operations without increasing staff,” explains Miller.

Streamline Accounts Payable

On-demand checks are an everyday thing at the school. The old system only cut checks for vendors on file, so writing checks for special needs was a laborious process. “We have easily cut the time for check writing in half,” Miller says. “My assistant can get the checks cut in 30 minutes. Before, he’d be typing checks until mid-morning.”

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Efficient Payroll Processing

Payroll processing has improved in a similar fashion. The 75-employee payroll used to take a good half a day to process. With Sage MIP Fund Accounting, even with the increased complexity of deductions and benefits, running payroll takes only 45 minutes, all the way through printing checks and direct deposit stubs. Employees are happier as well, because everyone can now see the complete breakout of deductions and benefits on their pay stubs.

Expand on Success

“We have been expanding our use of the system for two years,” Miller says, “and it is doing everything we’ve envisioned it doing and more. It has simplified our jobs so we can deal easily with whatever special requests come our way.” And Miller isn’t finished yet. Internal discussions are in progress for adding a variety of additional Sage Software products, including the Purchase Order module for fund accounting, Sage Fundraising software, and Sage Fixed Assets. “I think every non-profit organization should have Sage MIP Fund Accounting,” Miller says emphatically.

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