

Munich International School, Germany

Overview:

- MIS was founded in 1966 and provides a co-educational, international, English language learning environment for students aged 4 –18
- MIS offers all three programmes of the International Baccalaureate Organisation
- The main IT challenge at MIS was the lack of use of their old learning platform, Moodle, and subsequently, disorganised resources
- After switching to the Enterprise level LMS, itslearning, MIS has greatly improved platform usership

Customer:

Munich International School, Munich, Germany



2012

Year Implemented itslearning

School Profile:

 **50**
Years of education

 **1,200**
Students

 **64**
Nationalities amongst students

 **1:1**
For grades 1-12

 **1,000**
On-site computers

Upgrading to an Enterprise Level Learning Management System at Munich International School

Everyday Teaching & Learning with Technology

David Pritchard, Director of Instructional Technology at Munich International School, is responsible for the IT available. Students in grades 7-12 are issued with school-owned MacBooks while other classes have access to mobile MacBook carts and iPads. Classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards and senior school students also make use of their own mobile devices. For MIS, technology of all types is an integral part of everyday teaching and learning. Utilising a learning management system became the logical next step for their technological offerings.

Transitioning to itslearning

Before itslearning, MIS teachers were supposed to use Moodle. Not all teachers liked using the free learning platform, however, which forced them to use web tools they found online. This created confusion for the students, who had to organise their materials differently depending on the different systems their teachers used. Because teacher resources were saved on different platforms, sharing between colleagues was almost impossible. Additionally, parents trying to keep track of their child's progress was nearly impossible due to needing to switch between programs to find information.

Munich International School

“We started with a pilot of 12 teachers in itslearning at the start of the school year. itslearning has been growing so well, almost naturally. After one or two hours, even unexperienced teachers have a course running.”

David Pritchard, Director of Instructional Technology

Pritchard's team set out to find one LMS platform that combined everything teachers and students needed while sorting out this organisational confusion. “We compared different systems and in the end, itslearning was the solution that best met the different needs of our teachers,” explains Pritchard. “The itslearning planner tool enables our teachers to organise each lesson – a great tool for starting out. And for the teachers who had embraced Moodle, our old LMS platform, the ease with which they could transition to itslearning was very impressive.”

In regards to triangular communication between the school, students and parents, Pritchard says, “We were impressed by the possibility of parents being able to see what activities were planned over the next two weeks.” This ease of functionality and usability also extends to the teachers at MIS. “itslearning combines the many courses where students are enrolled into one page, and teachers can customise the appearance and the different sections of each course.” This also makes it easier for the students to stay organised – having all their courses, content, assignments, etc in one place.

“Every teacher is able to use itslearning in their classes and can take the best approach for each subject, regardless of their pedagogical methodology,” Pritchard explains. “Once they heard that, we really didn't have to sell teachers on the platform.” he says, “Our teachers did the selling for us.”

Supporting Collaboration

At MIS, there is a strong emphasis on collaborative curriculum planning. itslearning supports the development of shared courses by giving several teachers the authority to contribute, while these resources and activities are then made easily available to students. Teachers can also assign alternative tasks to groups of students within the same course – allowing for the differentiation of learning tasks.

International Baccalaureate and Other Benefits

“itslearning helps our IB-Diploma Coordinator to organise deadlines, materials and information. We think that this will help to make these difficult processes easier. We've started already with grade 12,” says Pritchard.

Pritchard also champions the fact that itslearning is constantly improving. Several times a year, the platform is automatically updated without any need for extra administration by the user. Main updates are always announced to users and in-platform onboarding is added when the updates go live.

Lastly, Pritchard says he also appreciates the ease of database management with the built-in capability of linking the platform with the School Information System. “itslearning is the only system that we have come across that makes this possible.”

