Miami Country Day School is a college preparatory learning community committed to educating the whole child. As a K–12 private school located in Miami, Florida, Miami Country Day School prepares children for college and for life by embracing core values of honor, respect, wisdom, and compassion.

Miami Country Day School’s Transition to Blackbaud’s Education Management Portfolio

Staff and faculty members at Miami Country Day School knew they had maxed out the features and functionality in their previous school administration software, Education Edge™, and needed to invest in a new solution to meet the demands of their school community. They wanted an improved admissions experience, an intuitive grading experience, and a responsive website. Plus, parents and students needed to be able to access learning resources at any time, from anywhere.

“Blackbaud’s [education management portfolio] is now the single source of information for our school community, and it has made a world of difference.”
—Gregg Lightfoot, PhD, Teacher
Miami Country Day School chose Blackbaud’s education management portfolio—including Blackbaud Enrollment Management System, Blackbaud School Website System, Blackbaud Learning Management System, and Blackbaud Student Information System—to meet the demands of faculty members, teachers, parents, board members, and students and to connect the entire school.

An Intuitive Interface Makes for Easy Adoption
Making the transition to a new solution can be frustrating, especially with veteran faculty members who may be more resistant to change. With a user-friendly, intuitive interface, Blackbaud’s education management portfolio smoothed the move for Miami Country Day School.

“I’m so proud of our faculty members who embraced Blackbaud’s [education management portfolio] the way they did,” Director of Upper School Glen Turf said. “I saw them try new things that I have never seen them try before.”

Blackbaud’s education management portfolio also makes it easy for parents to access information they need. Julie Pronesti, a parent and board member, loves being able to look up her son’s information right from her phone. “I know on a daily basis how my son is doing or if he has a quiz. I can look up what I want, find it, and I’m done,” Julie explained. “It makes the parent experience so much better.”

“Blackbaud’s [education management portfolio] just works. [The solutions] work for my students. They work for my faculty, my parents… and they work for me.”

—Jimmy Cudzilo, Director of Data and Web Services
About Blackbaud
Leading uniquely at the intersection point of technology and social good, Blackbaud connects and empowers organizations to increase their impact through cloud software, services, expertise, and data intelligence. We serve the entire social good community, which includes nonprofits, foundations, companies, education institutions, healthcare organizations, and the individual change agents who support them.

Making a Good First Impression
The admissions office also felt positive about moving to Blackbaud’s education management portfolio. The new online experience makes a positive first impression for the school, which is critical to attracting more students. Ingrid Palmisano, director of admissions and financial aid, describes it as “the welcome mat” for interested families.

With Blackbaud’s education management portfolio, Ingrid believes prospective families can get a better sense of the school community through the website. It helps them envision themselves as part of the school. “Blackbaud’s [education management solutions] are a red-carpet experience for families,” she said.

A Positive Transformation
More important than all the features and functionality in Blackbaud’s education management portfolio is the fact that everything is together in one place. Gregg Lightfoot, a teacher at the school, explained, “It’s under one roof, which makes all of the moving pieces in a teacher’s day that much easier.”

Having a single source of information for the school community has empowered Miami Country Day School to revolutionize and evolve its teaching and learning experience. Parents are more connected to what their students are doing in the classrooms each day. Admissions staff members are able to impress prospective families and board members. Teachers are able to spend less time on disparate technology systems and more time addressing their students’ needs.

“I’m really glad we unified our systems under one umbrella,” Gregg said. “It has made it a lot easier for all of us to focus on what’s most important, which is how we can benefit students by enhancing the learning experience.”

Learn more about Blackbaud’s entire portfolio of solutions for K–12 schools.

Check it out