

AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS NEWS

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Chandler's Seton Catholic installs high-tech crisis alert system

By Daniel Ochoa, Ahwatukee Foothills News | Posted: Tuesday, August 26, 2014 1:34 pm



Seton Security

Campus Security Specialist Jack Barten checks the Crisis Lockdown Alert Status System at Seton Catholic Prep on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2014.

Seton Catholic Preparatory High School recently added a high-tech alert system that furthers communication between first responders and school administration in the event of a crisis

Seton is the first school in Arizona to install Sielox's Crisis Lockdown Alert Status System (CLASS) onto its campus to help indicate exactly where and what is happening when a serious safety problem arises.

"Seton Catholic has consistently demonstrated a commitment to safeguarding their students and teachers with a variety of security measures," said Michael Baum, business development manager at Technical Systems, Inc., headquartered in Gilbert and Sielox CLASS local integration partner, in a statement. "Sielox CLASS exponentially enhances Seton's crisis communications. The system pinpoints where the danger is in your school and provides local law enforcement and emergency responders with critical information to respond in a safe and timely manner."

In addition to adding the new crisis alert system, Seton also hired Jack Barten, a full-time security officer for the school.

Barten, a retired Chandler Police Department sergeant, worked with the Chandler department for the past 31 years, during which he served in different capacities such as SWAT, patrol, criminal investigations and community services.

Teachers and administrators were trained on the system before the end of the previous school year. The system is connected teachers' computers and its accessibility is simple; in an event of a crisis, teachers use the system to indicate how serious or minimal the crisis is by selecting a color for their room.

Each issue has its own distinct color such as green for safe and secure, lime-green for unaccounted individual, blue for a medical problem, orange for a room disturbance and red for crisis.

Every classroom is shown throughout the security system, so Barten can see what's happening throughout the school in the security room, where he has four monitors that map out the entire campus.

Once a crisis is indicated, Barten is notified within seconds via text message or by seeing a classroom has changed from green to another color.

Teachers and administrators also receive a text message alerting them that there's a crisis on the school grounds.

"This is just a tool to help the schools themselves to help improve on the existing security plans they have," Barten said. "I've been here a short time, but what I can see here at Seton is they're trying to be on the forefront of the technology side of security. It's a tool to add to the system to help keep the kids, visitors and faculty safe."

Julie Grindey, dean of students, said the school was initially approached by Technical System Inc. about implementing CLASS to Seton.

"We've been working with them for several years; they do our cameras and all of our electronic systems," she said. "It was a great opportunity and we absolutely said yes."

The Catholic Sun

High school tests out crisis management system during mock lockdown



Aug 26, 2014

Jack Barten, new campus security specialist at Seton Catholic Preparatory, talks with freshmen students. The addition of a campus security officer and crisis management system increased campus communication efforts to track visitors and suspicious activity.

CHANDLER — Seton Catholic Preparatory went into lockdown mode last week, but it was all planned. The Aug. 20 drill helped staff and students practice for the unthinkable and acted as a trial run of the high school's new, nationally-recognized crisis management system.

Seton is the first Arizona school to install Sielox Class Crisis Lockdown Alert Status System. It will enhance awareness and communication to first responders in the event of an emergency. Sielox Class provides real-time information — including the ability to view interactive classroom maps on a range of computer devices and in patrol cars for both on-site and emergency personnel.

Julie Grindey, dean of students at Seton, knows it's a privilege to be the first school in Arizona to install the alert system. She said the first lock down drill helped train teachers how to use it to secure their classrooms.

"It's about minimizing response time and enhancing communication with campus security in any type of situation," Grindey said. "One of our teachers has already used the system to inform campus security of a person who was unaccounted for on campus."

Michael Baum is business development manager at Technical Systems, Inc., which is headquartered in Gilbert, and serves as Sielox Class local integration partner. He said the new security measure demonstrates Seton's commitment to safeguarding students and teachers.

"Sielox Class exponentially enhances Seton's crisis communications. The system pinpoints where the danger is in your school and provides local law enforcement and emergency responders with critical information to respond in a safe and timely manner," Baum said.

To further heighten safety, Seton also announced the addition of Jack Barten as Campus Security Specialist. Barten retired in 2011 as police sergeant from the Chandler Police Department after 31 years in law enforcement. Barten once served as a Police Assisting Youth in School (PAYS) Officer and Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Officer plus he Special Assignments Unit (SWAT), Patrol, Criminal Investigations and community services.

"It is a privilege to welcome Jack, his wealth of experience and expertise in professional law enforcement to the Seton community," said Grindey, dean of students. "Over the years, Seton has had a close working relationship with the Chandler Police Department. Adding a full-time Campus Security Specialist was a natural extension of our efforts and Jack is a natural fit."

Seton Catholic Prep secures new campus safety procedures

BY JOAN WESTLAKE

The new school year at Seton Catholic Preparatory, a Chandler high school for 60 years, brought two additions to the school's safety arsenal. The first is a high-tech, crisis response system and the second is a full-time, on-site campus security officer.

On Aug. 14, students and staff took part in a drill to test Seton's new Sielox Class—Crisis Lockdown Alert Status System. It provides real-time information for school administrators and teachers as well as first responders through interactive maps, chat, email and text messaging.

Dean of Students Julie Grindey explains that designated staff, security personnel and all teachers have access to the system on computers and other mobile devices, including smartphones. If, for example, there is a medical emergency in a class, the teacher presses the medical icon and immediately the room number and nature of the alert goes to designated alert recipients who go directly to the scene.

"It means we respond in seconds," says Grindey. "Teachers can add information, also, such as the type of medical emergency. In the case of a lockdown, teachers press green if their room is secure, red if there is a situation and yellow if they have added information, such as a student who is in the bathroom—so every student is accounted for."

The ability to view the same communications and interactive



SETON SAFETY SESSION: Jack Barten, new campus security specialist at Seton Catholic Preparatory, establishes rapport with freshman students, from left, Danielle Manella, McCaleb Murdock, Jacob Helms and Carson Lee. *Photo courtesy of Seton Catholic Preparatory*

classroom maps can be extended to Chandler Police Department dispatchers and patrol cars so they can pinpoint exactly where to go on campus. Cameras provide eyes to the exterior areas of the school.

According to Grindey, the Sielox Class product was brought to the school's attention by Technical Systems Inc. The Gilbert-headquartered firm has worked with Seton over the years on safety equipment such as the cameras that are

set up to view nearly all of the areas outside of classrooms.

To further enhance safety, Seton hired Jack Barten as campus security specialist. Recently retired after more than three decades in law enforcement, he served in many capacities in the Chandler Police Department, including the Special Assignments Unit (SWAT), patrol, criminal investigations and community services. Barten points out his years as a Police Assisting Youth

in School and Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officer makes him ideal for his new role on campus.

"Every day, we are building a rapport with students and their parents," says Barten. "We build trust so the students get to know us as a friend and feel they can come to us with problems."

Grindey adds that students are already responding positively to having a strong, male figure on campus who they can talk to. Barten provides the human element to security, overseeing the school's overall security program as well as addressing parents' and students' concerns before they become safety issues.

Grindey says that the added safety measures are part of the school's annual overall improvement efforts. There was some corporate underwriting of the system as well as money from Seton's annual operations budget, which sets significant funds aside each year to invest in campus security.

As to how parents feel, Tracy Dorsey, president of the school's parent association and mom to Seton students Alexis and Kohl, says, "It's a great way to start the new school year at Seton, knowing these added measures have been taken to bolster campus security and the safety of our students."

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