



GUTHRIE HIGH SCHOOL

A Case Study: Guthrie High School

A high school in central Oklahoma has decided that it is never too early to start preparing students for the “real” world. Lori Goodbary, 37, a teacher at Guthrie High School in Guthrie, Okla., created a “pay simulation” program to teach students important time and money management skills with the help of Lathem’s PC50 and PayClock® Express automated timekeeping system.

Challenge

“I started the pay simulation about eight years ago, when I taught a group of seniors a course on life as a single person,” said Goodbary. “It started as more of a discipline project, and then grew into a course on budgeting, saving and work skills.”

While the lesson was effective, it was difficult to execute. Goodbary had students enter their time in and out on paper timecards, and then she manually calculated class time for each of her 75 students. “It took forever,” said Goodbary. After researching timekeeping products, Goodbary decided to purchase Lathem’s PayClock Express because it is easy to use and is one of the most affordable automated time and attendance systems on the market. PayClock Express allowed students to clock in and out with plastic proximity badges the size of a credit card. One swipe and their information was entered into the system; no more paper timecards.

Solution

Goodbary gave her students Lathem plastic timekeeping badges and instructed them to clock in and out of class each day, in much the same way adults do at work. They even clock in and out for bathroom breaks and lunch. At the end of each month, the students’ class minutes are tallied, and based on how long they are in class, they are paid Blue Jay Bucks. The Blue Jay Bucks are used to teach students lessons about being accountable and on time. They use the Bucks as they would use real money to buy things such as groceries, rent or gas. If there are left-over Bucks, they put it in savings.

“The PC50 and PayClock Express are so easy to use. Students’ timecards now take 15 minutes, instead of 10-15 hours,” said Goodbary. Lathem also came through when she needed additional timecards. “My PayClock Express came with 50 timecards, but I have 75 students, so I called Lathem, told them about my program and they donated 100 additional cards.”

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“We’re thrilled that Guthrie High School is using PayClock Express in this creative way,” said Philip Seagraves, Lathem Time director of business development. “It’s a great way to teach students how to prepare for the work world.”

Goodbary said that PayClock Express has allowed her to consider ways to enhance the program and, at the same time, has given her some personal fringe benefits. “The Lathem PayClock Express has been a lifesaver. I used to manually calculate the students’ time at home. Now I have more time to spend with my family.”

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