THE SCHOOL WITH THE CROWDED LOBBY

The Challenge: A Disruptive Dismissal Process

Bellevue Montessori prides itself on offering students a beautiful and respectful learning environment. But every afternoon at 2:45 p.m., the tranquility that characterized the day was shattered as students streamed out of their classrooms and gathered in the lobby to be dismissed. There they sat on an uncomfortable floor and stairs, aimless and chatty. Teachers struggled to keep them quiet enough to hear their names being called over walkie-talkies. The whole gathering was disruptive to the administration's work and to the students in after-school activities.

As parents and guardians came to pick up their children, they too became immersed in the chaos. Cars piled up as they waited for a staff member to bring them the check-out device. The device was slow, and often froze or lost its connection, adding to the wait.

Pickup was a long, frustrating process and did not reflect the values of Bellevue Montessori or the atmosphere that prevailed throughout the majority of the day. The administration knew something had to be done.

The Solution: QManager Child Care Software

Bellevue Montessori's priorities were clear. "Our goal with arrival and dismissal was that children are securely signed in and out and in the least amount of time," explains Holly Pratt, the marketing and communications manager.

QManager offered the ideal solution. "QManager was appealing to our school because it was time efficient and also offered new security features that we did not have before," Holly says.

QMANAGER'S KEY FEATURES

- Extended device reach inside and outside the school
- Carpool management
- Traffic flow management
- Sign In/Sign Out
- Recording of actual signatures and timestamps
- Quick data retrieval, including check-in/out date, time, and guardian signature

Testing out a trial version of the software, Bellevue Montessori saw how QManager's innovative technology and traffic management features could drastically improve the drop-off and pick-up process. Guardians could even sign the children in and out directly from their own smartphones. No more frozen devices, no more lost connections, and no more waiting for a staff member to come to their cars. Best of all, the staff at Bellevue Montessori realized they could move dismissal out of the lobby.

Implementation: A New Flow

Once the administration at Bellevue Montessori became familiar with QManager, they were able to entirely revamp their dismissal process. Because QManager works throughout the building and each teacher can run it on her own, there was no longer a reason to corral the students into the lobby. Instead, they could be dismissed directly from their classrooms.

When parents or guardians arrive at the school, they run QManager right from the driveway. This sends an alert to the teachers, and she brings (or sends) the student to the appropriate car. Meanwhile, the rest of the students are engaged in meaningful activity until they are called.

The Results: Harmony Restored

Dismissal at Bellevue Montessori is now an entirely different experience. With students in their own classrooms until they are individually dismissed, teachers can easily monitor them and keep them busy with educational activities. The administration has regained control over the building; only a handful of students move through the hallways at a given time, and the lobby is once again an open, inviting, and relatively quiet space. Even the line of cars in the driveway is more orderly thanks to QManager's traffic flow management. And for parents and guardians, pickup and drop off is a quick, seamless process — exactly as Bellevue Montessori had wanted.

For more information on QManager or to speak to the admin staff at Bellevue Montessori please email us at pam@quickqueues.com or call 425-224-6336.