

INFRASTRUCTURE WITH **purpose** AT MINNESOTA VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

At Minnesota Valley Lutheran (MVL) High School in New Ulm, preparing students for the future begins with a clear mission.

As Technology Director Kirk Schauand explains, the school exists to help get students ready to be useful citizens in society.

Technology at MVL is about equipping students with the critical thinking skills and confidence they will need in college, careers, and their communities. Every infrastructure decision is made with that outcome in mind.

When Schauand joined MVL five years ago, the school had gone nearly a decade without a dedicated technology leader. “When I got here, my job was to look at what the next step was to take in regard to getting kids ready from a technology standpoint,” he said.

His approach was simple: build systems that last.

“I like to make sure that when something’s done, we are set for the next several years,” he said.

That long-term mindset aligned naturally with Nuvera’s proactive investment in fiber infrastructure across the region. By working closely with MVL to expand their bandwidth capacity, Nuvera helped ensure the school stays ahead of growing digital demands. With scalable fiber infrastructure now in place, MVL is well positioned to increase capacity quickly

and seamlessly as needs evolve — supporting students today and into the future.

The impact of that investment shows up in the classroom every day. More than 500 devices connect across campus, serving approximately 270 students in grades 9 through 12. Every student uses a Chromebook. Teachers and staff rely on cloud-based platforms for lesson planning, grading, collaboration, and communication. When an entire class opens a digital textbook at the same time, lessons begin instantly. When the full student body logs in for online standardized testing, the network handles it without interruption. Learning simply continues.

The school recently completed a major building expansion, nearly doubling its size. A new gym and field house, additional classrooms, and upgraded Wi-Fi throughout the facility required careful planning to achieve seamless integration.

“Our plan was to establish the same technical standards across the board, ensuring the new expansion and the existing facilities would



500+
DEVICES

~270
STUDENTS

THE SCHOOL SEES AI AS A TOOL FOR BUILDING MORE CAPABLE, THOUGHTFUL STUDENTS.



operate as one cohesive network,” Schauland said. “It makes it easier for us to manage and to have a more reliable network.”

That consistency enables students to access richer learning experiences across the entire campus. Reliable fiber connectivity allows the school to operate as a fully Google-based organization, with students using Google Drive and Google Classroom daily. Advanced courses in computer science, cybersecurity, engineering, and biomedical sciences draw on digital tools and online resources that simply would not function without dependable, high-capacity connectivity. Students in these programs are learning content, but more importantly they are developing the technical fluency that modern careers demand.

arts, athletics, worship, and community connection.

As human-centered, ethically applied artificial intelligence becomes more embedded in education and the modern workplace, MVL approaches it with both intention and clarity. The school sees AI as a tool for building more capable, thoughtful students.

“We want our students to be digitally savvy, be able to utilize the tools that are there, but not rely upon them,” Schauland said. “We want them to be digital citizens.”

That balance, using technology wisely without becoming dependent on it, reflects the school’s broader mission. Reliable, future-ready infrastructure ensures students have access to modern tools. Strong leadership

...FIBER CONNECTIVITY DOES MORE THAN POWER CLASSROOMS. IT SUPPORTS THE FULL ECOSYSTEM OF SCHOOL LIFE...

Video has also become a meaningful part of instruction. Teachers can record lessons, host virtual meetings, and post materials online to support students who need to revisit a concept or catch up after an absence. “The ability now to be able to do video has been a big help,” Schauland said.

Beyond academics, connectivity strengthens the entire MVL community. Athletic events, concerts, and plays are streamed live from the field house and fine arts center, expanding access for family members who cannot attend in person.

In this way, fiber connectivity does more than power classrooms. It supports the full ecosystem of school life, including academics,

and clear values ensure they learn how to use those tools responsibly.

In a world where many future careers do not yet exist, and where the pace of technological change continues to accelerate, readiness matters more than ever. With scalable fiber connectivity from Nuvera and a commitment to long-term planning, Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School has built a foundation designed to support students for years to come.

For MVL, connectivity is about creating an environment where learning is seamless, community is strengthened, and students are prepared, both technically and personally, for whatever comes next.