

“ Meridian is like a security blanket filling in our knowledge gaps. ”

**Bob Valdez**  
Assistant Director of Technology



**Company**  
Brewster Central School District  
Brewster, NY

**Industry**  
Education



# “We have a lot of trust in Meridian.”

They not only understand where we are as an organization, but also where we want to go. They help us reach our goals within the limits of our school budget.”

**Bob Valdez**  
Assistant Director of Technology



## Meridian Brings Expertise to Brewster Central School District so They Can Bring Technology to the Classroom

### About Brewster Central School District

The Brewster Central School District serves approximately 3,000 students, employs 450 staff members, and holds classes and activities in four different school buildings with varying grade levels from elementary school through high school. Brewster has earned a reputation as a high-performing school system with students who consistently perform at or above the levels of districts with similar demographic and economic profiles.

Technology plays a large role in every aspect of Brewster Central School District as educators leverage IT as a tool to enhance the curriculum and instruction they deliver to their students. Brewster Central School District provides Chromebooks for students K-12 and supports a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) network for instructional flexibility.



**3,000**  
Students



**450**  
Staff Members



**4**  
Instructional Buildings

### The Challenges

With every student receiving a Chromebook, and thousands of devices dependent on the network every day, Brewster Central School District started to hit limitations on their Palo Alto firewalls, creating access issues and traffic limitations for staff and students. Education at Brewster heavily relies on this IT ecosystem for both curriculum and instruction so failure was not an option.

To add to their challenges, a former Brewster employee had set up the Palo Alto firewalls for the school and when he left the district, there was a knowledge gap on the team. Plus, the team needed assistance adding redundancy to their network.

### How Meridian Helped

Brewster Central School District turned to Meridian to support them through this growth and transition. Meridian stepped in to act as an expansion of their team and fill the Palo Alto technology expert gap. In addition, the Meridian team analyzed their current environment to uncover how policies were structured, assessed the current configuration, and made recommendations on what needed to change for maximum security and performance for today and for tomorrow.

Once the proposed strategy was discussed and approved to ensure it met all of the tactical and strategic needs of the Brewster team, Meridian adjusted where the ARP table was stored moving it from their firewall to their core switch. This created a significantly larger table thus eliminating the firewall limitations that were crippling their network. Meridian also worked with the Brewster Central School District to add a second Palo Alto firewall for redundancy, a DMZ, and an automated fail-over to prevent any disruption to the network.

### Business Impacts

Brewster looked to Meridian as **a partner to design and execute a plan**. By creating and intelligent response system and providing additional Palo Alto support, Brewster now has a granular and protected view of their ecosystem. Brewster's IT department has **more time to focus on meaningful projects**, such as addressing the new state laws regarding security requirements and taking preventive measures to stop ransomware. The students at Brewster are experiencing the benefits of **advanced technology without disruption**. Their students can now effectively collaborate and utilize the abundance of online resources while allowing teachers to track and measure student progress.

Design & Execute



Invest in Innovation



Advanced Technology



Expect more from your technology partner. Choose Meridian.

Call +1 (888) 835-3815 to speak with one of our solution experts.

Since 1979, Meridian has been a services company that helps you consume technology the way you want for today and for tomorrow. With over 160 OEM partners and hundreds of service professionals throughout the world, we help implement the solutions you want to provide the expertise on the solutions you need. We have helped customers transform the technology tools and resources they already have into undeniable business value.