

Clean schools, happy schools

PROGRAM

Cultivating a culture of cleanliness
within your institution





Increasing hygiene standards in schools are placing significant pressure on custodians and teachers.

The problem for custodians

Increasing hygiene standards puts pressure on custodians who are often seen as solely responsible for maintaining cleanliness. When schools change their cleaning standards, custodians are at the forefront and see a significant increase in workload and responsibilities.

With fluctuating labor situations and numerous daily tasks, many custodians are struggling to keep up with their cleaning duties and require additional assistance.

The problem for teachers

As the “away-from-home parent” they often lack the time and resources educate students on hygiene as their primary focus is on delivering lesson plans. Teachers are also spending their own money on classroom supplies to maintain cleanliness.

The **Clean schools, happy schools** program by Kimberly-Clark Professional aims to encourage student participation in cleaning and hygiene practices in a fun and kid-friendly manner. It emphasizes the role children play in reducing the spread of germs and makes health an engaging experience for the entire school community. Ultimately, this program seeks to alleviate stressors on support staff.

The 3 pillars of this program include:

Education

Engagement

Enablement

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Program objectives

Encourage the entire school community's participation and involvement in cleaning and hygiene protocols.

- 1 **Raise awareness about the importance of cleanliness and hygiene in schools**, highlighting the positive impact on learning outcomes.
- 2 **Ease the burden on custodial staff** to help create an atmosphere conducive to learning.
- 3 **Establish healthy habits** and encourage students to do their part in establishing a clean space.
- 4 **Build a sense of community** to collectively maintain a clean and welcoming school environment that everyone can take pride in.

Four reasons a clean school is a happy school

- 1 Proper hygiene helps promote student health**

Regular cleaning and maintenance help minimize the spread of germs, bacteria, and allergens. When kids are healthy, they are performing their best.
- 2 Improved academic performance**

A clean and organized learning environment promotes better concentration and focus among students. With less distraction, students are more likely to absorb information and perform well academically.¹
- 3 Positive community image**

A positive community image can lead to increased support, resources, and collaboration, ultimately benefiting the school and its students. A school district's performance can also impact home values and ultimately enrollment rates.
- 4 Higher attendance rates**

When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.

Creating a hygienic learning environment not only helps minimize absenteeism by reducing illness causing germs, but it can also impact a school district's budget. When students perform well that means the district is getting attendance funding.

Note: funding differs by state.

¹The Relationship Between School Building Conditions and Student Achievement at the Middle School Level in the Commonwealth of Virginia, August 2007 <https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/handle/10919/28749>

Lessons & activities

Practical ideas to inspire cleanliness.

Student-led cleaning

Schedule cleaning drives where students actively contribute to school cleanliness. Encourage them to take responsibility for their surroundings. See [Wipe it Down](#) activity.

Hygiene workshops

Collaborate with health professionals, your Kimberly-Clark Professional Account Manager and Safety Specialist Team, to present proper handwashing techniques featuring Sparky the Spaniel, discuss surface cleaning and show how hygiene factors into a healthy lifestyle.

Creative competitions

Organize art, poetry or essay competitions centered around cleanliness and hygiene. Encourage students to express their ideas creatively and promote the Clean School, Happy School message.

School-wide pledges

Invite students, teachers and staff to make cleanliness pledges, affirming their commitment to maintaining a clean school environment. Display these pledges as a visual reminder of shared accountability.

See [Hygiene Pledge](#).

Recognition

Acknowledge students and classes that consistently maintain cleanliness standards through certificates, badges or small rewards. Encourage healthy competition among participants.

Parent involvement

Engage parents by organizing parent-teacher meetings or workshops focused on cleanliness and hygiene. Encourage parents to support clean habits at home.

Measure progress

Survey students on their attitudes, awareness and behavior towards cleanliness and hygiene. Observe any changes in absences.



EDUCATION

ENGAGEMENT

ENABLEMENT



Creative Competition: Wipe it Down with WypAll®

Empower and equip

Equip each student with a WypAll® wiper

Add music

Engage students with the infectious beats of the “Wipe it Down” song

Time for tidiness

Use a timer to set a cleaning duration, if desired

The champion of clean

Celebrate the student who achieves the dirtiest wipe when the timer ends

WypAll® GeneralClean™
Light Cleaning Towels | L10



Extra credit

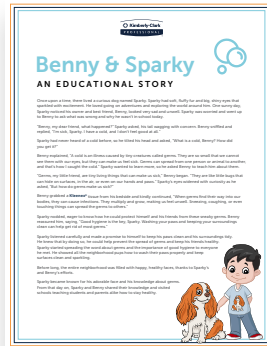
Gain instant access to these digital downloads when you become a user of Kimberly-Clark Professional solutions.



Hygiene Pledge reminder:
Strengthen the community dedication to cleanliness.



Handwashing infographic guide:
When combined with other educational methods, signage can help promote hygiene and serve as a memory aid.



Benny and Sparky the Spaniel's story:
A tale about an ailing boy and his canine companion. Employing cartoons as an educational tool might enhance information retention by utilizing visual and textual elements.



CONCLUSION

Education meets expectations

In summary, there are various approaches to engage the entire school community in promoting cleanliness and hygiene. Our aim is to aid in this endeavor. **By collaborating together, we can strive for cleaner, healthier and happier school environments where everyone is actively involved.**

CCS Faculty Services, Clean Schools: The Impact on Student Success and Teacher Retention, May 2022 <https://ccsbts.com/the-impact-of-clean-schools-on-student-success-and-teacher-retention/>

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