

Fairview School District Case Study

The Customer

Fairview School District 72 in Skokie, Ill has a mixed-use building that includes the school and district office in one 150,000-square foot space. In Skokie, as elsewhere, public education is a commitment to high standards especially when striving for academic excellence. With school expenditures amounting to millions of dollars, districts like Fairview are looking for ways to be more efficient with processes including keeping facilities clean.



Challenge

Fairview administrators knew how important it was to keep the school clean and sanitary for both staff and students but were challenged to make the investment in custodial crew and proper equipment that would achieve the caliber of clean needed. That's where GSF USA came in. According to GSF general manager, Kurt Kuempel, the global cleaning services company has the ability to make the capital investments its clients do not want to deal with.

In 2013 Fairview administrators were seeking a competitively priced cleaning program to tackle its multi-use building that houses students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Proper floor care was a major concern for the school where busy hallways take their toll under harsh daily use by hundreds of students, particularly during wet winter months.

Solution

When Kuempel was introduced to TASKI® Intellibot and the myriad benefits of robotic cleaning, he knew it would satisfy Fairview's floor care needs and budget concerns. The intelligent cleaning machine also fit GSF's mission to take aggressive steps toward finding innovative solutions to solve its clients' problems.

Kuempel incorporated a hands-free scrubber machine on his night crew so he could repurpose labor and increase productivity in other areas of the school. Use of the TASKI® Intellibot SWINGOBOT 1650™ has allowed him to utilize his five-member staff at Fairview to be more efficient with a floor scrubber they can set through simple programming and simultaneously focus on other responsibilities while it's running. Since its introduction four years ago, the scrubber has improved cleaning consistency and efficiency of overall cleaning tasks with the added bonus of an environmentally responsible approach.

The intelligent machine features a touchscreen that prompts users through the simple operating process, making it very easy to use. Sensors provide a 360-degree view that allows the sweeper/scrubber to operate hands-free through a maze of hallways that encompass approximately 75,000 square feet. An eco-friendly design uses up to 85 percent less water and cleaning solution per eight-hour shift with a 14-gallon solution tank that utilizes recycled water technology.





“There are very few building service contractors who are making the investments necessary to do cleaning the right way,” said Kuempel of the decision to purchase the machine. “With Intellibot, we’re not just doing the same stuff that’s been done forever. Introducing innovation allows Fairview and other facilities to innovate right along with us.”

Five days a week, the TASKI Intellibot travels the main school hallways in different map patterns and throughout the gymnasium in map configurations based on the activities being performed at the time. The Intellibot machine’s quiet operation and dry floors left behind provides non-disruptive use in the environment. When students are present for after school activities, observing the robot in action is educational for them too, says Kuempel. “They enjoy watching the robot and want to learn about it and ask questions,” he said. “I like the safe use – the Intellibot will never run into kids or lockers,” Kuempel added.

Results

Overall, Kuempel views the Intellibot as a valued team member. It’s able to generate detailed reports for GSF including log-in time, end of shift and areas cleaned. No special training is required and the icon-based touchscreen prompts users through all functions, regardless of language or skill level.

Kuempel has seen a reduction in the turnover rate of his cleaning staff at Fairview School over the past four years, with no turnover in over three years, an improvement that can be credited to the innovation GSF provides its team members with. According to Kuempel, the employees appreciate the investment by the company that enables them to be more efficient. The GSF cleaning program, including its staff and use of the TASKI Intellibot, has strengthened the company’s partnership with the school and elevated their quality of clean. GSF’s investment in robotics exemplifies its dedication to Fairview’s business and sets them apart from competitors.

