The Changing Role of School Custodians

As Piscataway schools and classrooms grow into active learning centers, the role of the school custodian has grown as well. Effectively functioning as important support staff, school custodians are partners in creating the best spaces for learning, and, of course, keeping those spaces clean on a daily basis. Every building has a custodial foreman who works with the principal and Facilities Director Bill Griffith to ensure that every project is completed on time and as planned.

Piscataway Schools has the best custodial/maintenance staff in the entire state.

Teachers continually look for creative ways to set up and use their classroom space—sometimes transforming a room in a day for a special project, and then changing it back again. And it is the school custodian who is always there to help make that transformation happen. Need supplies brought in from your car? That’s a call to the school custodian. Setting up for an event? Another call.

School custodians are the eyes and ears of every building. Working with safety officers, custodians are in the hallways and on the grounds, ensuring visitors follow protocol. They are part of emergency planning for every building, preparing to deal with electrical and ventilation issues. And they work with the district’s energy savings specialist to ensure best practices in every building.

Custodians are the first call for a problem in a classroom: a spill, a leak, a smell. During snowy weather, custodians arrive early—sometimes in the middle of the night—to ensure sidewalks are clean and safe for students and staff. They are the first ones to enter the buildings each morning and the last ones to leave.
Summer Work

The custodial staff are like super men and women during the summer months. Classrooms are emptied so floors can be stripped and waxed, or rugs cleaned and disinfected. Every wall, window, and desk is scrubbed. Custodians take the extra care needed to clean classrooms filled with colorful rugs, alternate seating, wall hangings, and student art work everywhere.

The pride of our district begins with our buildings and grounds.

Our grounds cover hundreds of acres across all schools and our grounds maintenance crew keeps them in top shape. Our fields are always ready for outdoor physical education and for sports teams to practice and compete. Our playgrounds are kept clean and safe. And when it snows, Piscataway Schools’ parking lots are always among the first in town to be clean and ready for business.

Our Piscataway custodians and grounds crew are an important part of the school community. They are respected, trusted adults who students can turn to for assistance. Moving forward into the next decade, the role of the custodian will continue to expand as facilities needs grow and change.

Please join us in thanking our custodial and maintenance staff for their hard work and dedication. We are grateful for the support of this invaluable team.