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BEYOND THE MOP & BROOM

How the KIRA Robotic Scrubber Transformed Cleaning at West Wichita High School.

INTRODUCTION

West Wichita High School, a 320,000 square foot facility located in Wichita, Kansas, serves as the education hub for nearly 1,400 students. Maintaining a clean and safe learning environment in such a large institution presents significant challenges.

The Problem

Head Custodian Billy McPherson faced numerous challenges in keeping West Wichita High School clean. The custodial team was short two full-time staff positions, leading to time constraints that made thorough cleaning difficult. Traditional methods of mopping and sweeping were time consuming and physically demanding. Specific issues included insufficient time to perform deep cleaning restrooms and sanitizing high-touch points. Additionally, Billy's team was responsible for setting up for weekly school events, further stretching their limited resources. The need for an efficient and reliable cleaning solution was evident.

BILLY MCPHERSON – Head Custodian, West High School

Implementing the Solution

To address these challenges, the school district purchased the Kärcher KIRA B 50 robotic scrubber, and brought in Kärcher trainers to set them up. After showing the custodians basic operation, they mapped out various cleaning routes and a timetable for when the robot would start working. The implementation of the KIRA B 50 marked an immediate turning point for the custodial operations at West Wichita High School.

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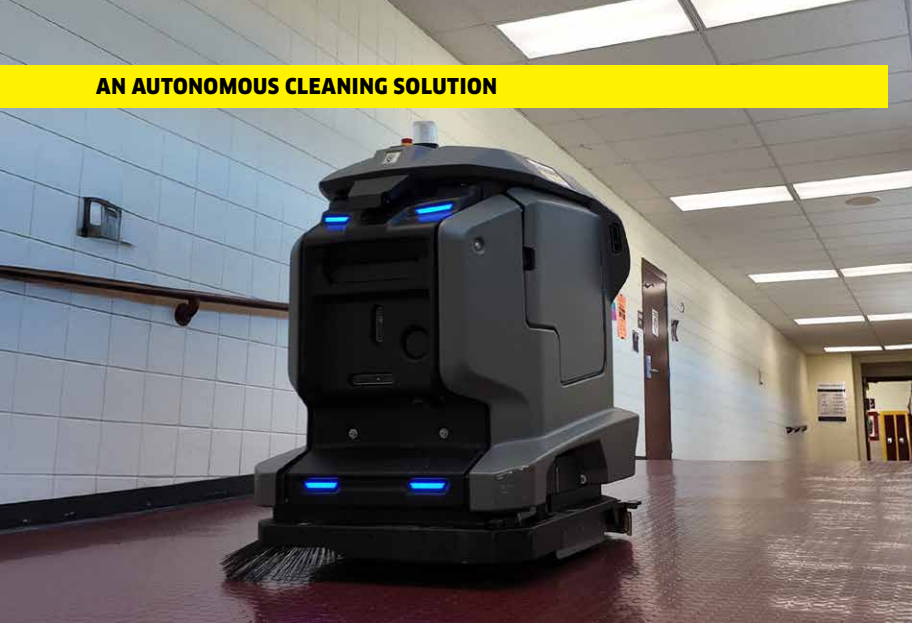

The Result

The KIRA B 50 proved to be an “ultimate game changer” for West Wichita High School, according to Billy McPherson. The robotic scrubber provided six hours of continuous cleaning per day, significantly increasing efficiency and productivity. This allowed the existing staff to focus on specialized tasks such as dusting, sanitizing touch points, edging floors, deep cleaning restrooms, spotting carpet, changing light bulbs and mopping classrooms. The KIRA B 50 enabled the school to maintain cleanliness during events without disrupting regular cleaning schedules.

Despite ongoing staffing shortages, the KIRA B 50 allowed the team to "do more with less," ensuring cleanliness levels were maintained. The robot delivered consistent cleaning results, with McPherson reporting 99.998% coverage of the areas it was tasked to scrub. The physical strain on custodial staff was reduced, as the KIRA B 50 took over the labor-intensive task of floor scrubbing. McPherson noted that this alleviated fatigue and potential long-term health issues, “helping the team be healthier and have more energy for the week.”

McPherson was impressed with the KIRA B 50's safe navigation, ability to maneuver around obstacles and clean in tight spaces. “The self-docking system for emptying dirty water, rinsing and refilling, as well as recharging streamlined operations saving valuable time. In the past we had to walk back and forth to specific locations to dump dirty mop water”. Overall cleanliness improved significantly, with McPherson stating that the floors are "the cleanest floors in the district."

The initial set up for KIRA was easy, “If I can understand the digital display, anyone can”, McPherson says. “Plus, we’re able to get reports showing the total cleaning hours, total area cleaned, water consumed, detergents used and the percentage of the tasks completed each month. This shows the unit pays for itself.”

Conclusion

The implementation of the Karcher KIRA B 50 robotic scrubber at West Wichita High School successfully addressed significant cleaning challenges. By automating routine floor cleaning tasks, the KIRA B 50 increased efficiency, ensured consistent results, reduced physical strain on staff, and improved overall cleanliness while directly giving a return on investment.

The school’s experience demonstrates the value of autonomous cleaning solutions in educational settings, leading to a healthier and more positive learning environment.

Billy McPherson expressed his gratitude to the district supervisors for bringing the KIRA B 50, emphasizing its transformative impact on their operations.

Scan to view our video success story.

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