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Is it time to graduate from paper?

A few Brightly ideas to use data to help maximize your educational facilities and operational budgets amidst labor concerns.
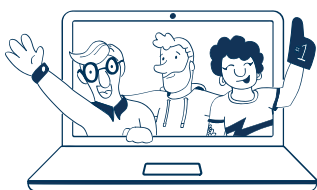
To attract new employees, you need the right tools

Schools need to keep students safe to encourage a healthy learning environment, but that can be a challenge when operational teams lack resources — including enough workers — to accomplish all the tasks on their plates. Many longtime employees are retiring, and newer generations demand having tech in place to even consider accepting a job. For educational facilities maintenance managers still using paper systems to keep track of everything, it can be challenging to attract talent to fill open roles, let alone get everything done.

So how can we feed two birds with one scone? Data!

Consider centralizing operational and facilities-based activities in a computerized maintenance management system (CMMS). Whether you're looking to better utilize the staff or inventory you already have or do more with less, an asset management system can give you the power of insights and visibility to make smarter and more cost-effective decisions to keep educational campuses safe and happy — while giving you a powerful tool to attract new talent.

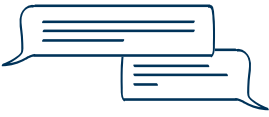## 5 signs it's time to leave paper in the classroom

Is lack of technology making hiring new talent impossible?

If your team still relies on paper systems, spreadsheets, and the know-how of a few longtime employees, you're likely setting yourself up for failure. Younger workers have grown up using technology — and expect it every place they go. If you don't get the right tools in place now, it will be impossible to attract new staff when your longtime employees retire. A solution like a CMMS can be as easy to learn as a mobile device and help capture legacy information before it walks out the door while enticing the next generation of facilities and maintenance professionals.

Do you rely on a whiteboard or clipboard to plan your week?

Whether it's blocking your full visibility of what's in progress, complete, or needing to get started if your team is simply checking tasks off a list, you're likely missing out on data that can inform a more strategic approach that could help you accomplish more. Without connected technology, you miss out on capturing insights that can help plan for preventive maintenance schedules to keep assets healthy and inform which projects to prioritize. You also risk losing historical and legacy information (like "Make sure to check this boiler weekly") to help future workers in their roles.

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Are you experiencing a communication breakdown between departments, teams or leadership?

Educational maintenance teams can feel like they are a catchall for all that goes wrong, especially if they aren't using data to explain the reasoning behind projects or manage workflows. If your team is subject to frequent "Hey, can you fix this?" or "Why are we prioritizing this?" or if your department still relies on one-off emails, paper, or word of mouth for communication purposes, you might be sacrificing efficiency and the opportunity to use data to work more effectively. A centralized system can establish a project request procedure, help plan workflows, track priorities, and, importantly, give you the data to communicate why you (and your team of limited resources) choose which tasks you complete.

Is your inventory a mess?

Whether you oversee one central building or an entire campus, for many operational teams in the education sector, it's a challenge to know not only what's available but where it's stored. With the cost of parts, materials and shipping only set to rise, your inventory management could improve with a centralized system to ensure you can find and use what you have or only order what you need.

Do routine maintenance activities get pushed (or worse, dropped)?

In education, priorities are forced upon maintenance teams from all directions; leadership, parents, and those who actually care for the assets all have different ideas as to what teams should focus on. Though urgency might be placed on projects such as security or grass care for an athletic field, routine maintenance activities (such as HVAC inspections, cleanings, and other day-to-day tasks) must be completed. A solution that can illuminate the data as to why it is necessary to complete seemingly lower-priority tasks can give maintenance teams the talking points they need so nothing slips through the cracks.

The right solutions for education

Whether you're looking to cut costs while improving the maintenance and care for assets and facilities, or trying to do more with less resources, it can be a time-consuming process that requires extensive planning and communication — which is why you need a CMMS solution.

Lean on a CMMS to:

Boost efficiency

→ Organize what's due today, work orders, backlog, and inventory

→ Use mobile app on the go to save time

→ Schedule more efficient vehicle usage

Manage inventory

→ Know what you have and where it is located

→ Use QR codes for organization

→ Plan bulk orders to save on shipping costs

Go mobile

→ Centralize operational data for easy access, anytime

→ Give technicians the on-the-go info they need

→ Stop losing vital information on pieces of paper

Powerful Brightly solutions help manufacturers with the facilities, maintenance and operational tasks their teams handle. Our products are designed to simplify every last detail with easy-to-use software that allows you to make data-driven decisions that will increase efficiency, decrease waste and cut costs.

Interested in learning more from an expert?

Reach out to an education expert today at:
www.brightlysoftware.com