

## CASE STUDY

CLIENT: Culver Academies

LOCATION: Culver, Indiana

Trendway >



### The Challenge

During the worldwide pandemic, it was difficult for educational institutions to enact teaching plans given the host of new issues that needed to be addressed: Would the classes be in-person? Online only? A hybrid of the two? And what about schools that offered dorm experiences? Would they be able to adequately provide for safe and healthy environments?

These were the questions administrators and staff at Culver Academies in Culver, IN wrestled with during the months when COVID-19 cases spiked across the nation. Culver Academies is a college preparatory boarding school, comprised of a Culver Military Academy for boys and Culver Girls Academy. Both offer on-campus housing for the students—and that made ensuring health and safety during the COVID-19 outbreak essential.

According to Michael Squires, the Commandant of Cadets at Culver Military Academy, that took top priority. “As educators and administrators, our focus is continually on the well-being of students,” he says. “When the pandemic hit, we had to readjust our processes and procedures—and that made us even more aware of the role air cleaning had in mitigating risk. Surface and hand cleaning went a long way toward reducing transmission issues, but we needed Fellowes air purifiers to increase air quality.”

### The Solution

Fellowes® AeraMax® Pro air purifiers are commercial-grade air purification systems that remove up to 99.97 percent of airborne contaminants, like viruses, germs, allergens, dust, bacteria and volatile organic compounds, from indoor spaces. What’s more, these Fellowes AeraMax Pro air purifiers were demonstrated through independent laboratory testing to be effective in reducing aerosolized airborne concentration of Human Coronavirus 229E in a test chamber, reaching 99.99 percent airborne reduction within one hour of operation. The units employ a four-stage filtration system and use hospital-like HEPA filters to eliminate these airborne threats.

The installation of the Fellowes air purifiers provided a permanent solution to air quality issues. In the military academy’s boys’ barracks, the older HVAC system was built under different requirements and was unable to handle the air changes per hour (ACH) required to keep the air clean. ACH is the rate in which indoor air is completely recycled, making for fresher, cleaner air. The higher the rate, the more complete changes of air occur. That’s important since viruses and germs tend to linger in the air.

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### The Results

The installation of Fellowes air purifiers significantly boosted the ACH in the enclosed spaces. They also provided hands-free operation by way of exclusive PureView Technology. PureView uses EnviroSmart™ 2.0, which employs laser sensors to scan and analyze a room, activating the air purification system when contaminants are present. Because each unit has a large digital display, students and staff could see the cleaning progress, which allayed any fears.

These displays showcase when heavy pollutants are in the air with a red alert graphic. When cleaning begins, the display announces it in bold letters and cycles through a purification process. As the process continues removing particulates from the air, the display shows a readout of the percentage of particles captured. When the graphic turns green, the air is clean. “Students and our staff can actually see the purifiers working,” Squires says. “That’s a big win.”

Another win: The Fellowes air purifiers are whisper quiet. According to Joshua Pretzer, Dean of Faculty, the purifiers calmed educators’ concerns that the units would be distracting. Not so. “The teachers and students soon forgot the air purifiers were even in the rooms,” Pretzer says. “This allowed our students and staff to focus more on their studies and put any air concerns behind them.”

There was also an added bonus. Because the Fellowes air purifiers remove up to 99.97 percent of allergens in enclosed spaces, Lynn Rasch, Dean of Girls, noticed something else. “The girls in the school have far less allergy issues—and more peace of mind,” she says.

That peace of mind extends throughout the academies. “Our experience with the Fellowes AeraMax Pro product line has been wonderful,” says Jeff Kutch, Director of Facilities, Facilities Administration. “Our teachers, students and administrators can see the air being cleaned with the Fellowes PureView Technology, which provides a feeling of safety—and the units automatically turn off, saving energy when our classrooms are empty.”

