

CASE STUDY



OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MAKES
STUDENT HYDRATION A HIGH PRIORITY.



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*Oak Park Unified School District
Oak Park, California*

BACKGROUND

California has long been the thought leader in the application of innovative technologies. The Oak Park School District in Southern California is an admirable example of this thought movement. With five schools ranging from elementary to high school, quality educational opportunities were a principal priority. With numerous topics and causes to focus on, Oak Park understood and chose to pay attention to the importance of simple hydration. More and more frequently, hydration and dehydration are being recognized not just as a vital part of a healthy diet but as a tool for maximum employee, athlete, and student performance. Studies have shown that dehydration specifically impairs a person's hand-eye coordination, ability to focus, short-term memory, and arithmetic skills.

OBJECTIVE

In order to operate at your body and mind's full potential, it is essential that humans consume fresh, clean water on a continuous basis throughout the day. Oak Park faculty members were concerned that students were not consuming enough water and in turn it was affecting their growth and learning. With a specific vision in mind, administration started researching different water dispenser solutions including large reverse osmosis systems and individual filters.

SOLUTION

Choosing a product that balanced both innovation and ease of installation, Oak Park School District selected the HydrationStation™ - a simple concept of providing clean, refreshing water via a hands-free dispenser. Other options were "all VERY expensive, required lots of maintenance and were unpractical," stated Oak Park Superintendent Tony Knight. Oak Park installed several units at cafeteria and library locations in each of the different schools and started promoting the unit with a positive response from both students and parents. Not only did the HydrationStation provide students and faculty with a touch-free, hygienic way to attain refreshing water, it significantly decreased single-use plastic bottle waste, further assisting Oak Park in their sustainability efforts.

RESULTS

Mr. Knight was adamant about the optimistic feedback: "Reaction has been positive from the beginning because people are concerned about buying plastic water bottles (and) about the safety of regular drinking water...this is the best idea ever!" The HydrationStation hooks up to the municipal water line and provides users with filtered water at a rate of .8 gallons per minute with each filter lasting approximately 6 months or 2,500 gallons. To introduce the units to the 3,800 students, the Parent Teacher Association sold stainless steel bottles with the school mascot logo on them; administration publicized the units through school newsletters and emails to parents. "Word spread quickly...it's been a huge success!" exclaimed Knight.

ABOUT HAWS

Haws Corporation designs, manufactures and distributes drinking fountains and emergency equipment that are ranked #1 in quality by specifiers in both product categories.

