

Midwest Central CUSD #191

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Midwest Central Completes Fundamental Building Upgrades

Budgets are tight while buildings and equipment are growing older by the day, and many school districts are faced with decisions on which facility upgrades need to be made on a year-by-year basis. This is exactly the situation Midwest Central found themselves in when they chose Omni Energy Partners to help tackle items on their deferred maintenance list in the Summer of 2021. "When you looked at our original 50-year-old boiler that we were running, it was understood that a replacement was needed even though the boiler was still in running condition," says Todd Hellrigel, Superintendent for Midwest Central CUSD #191. "In recent years we spent so much time tracking down leaks and resetting the system that it was time to make some upgrades."



Addressing the HVAC Needs

With students and staff returning to in person learning after the COVID-19 pandemic closed schools, Midwest Central began looking for solutions to improve the indoor air quality of their facilities. Omni Energy Partners recommended solutions to the district that would reduce the potential for airborne transmission of viruses. Bipolar ionization was selected as the best option for the application. This air cleaning technology generates both positive and negative ions which are then distributed throughout the air via the HVAC system. Once out in space, the particles cluster together into larger particles by interacting with things like germs, bacteria, mold, and gaseous contaminants. These then are removed from the airflow at the filter or become heavy enough to fall to a surface which then are easily removed through typical disinfection practices.



Global Plasma Solutions (GPS) bipolar ionization units were installed on the HVAC systems at multiple locations at the direction of the district. After installation the district saw a measurable decrease in particle levels throughout all of the school facilities. "After installing the GPS system, we have noticed an uptick in the number of filters we have gone through," says Hellrigel. "A testament to the fact that more airborne particles are being captured due to this technology."



This ultimately accomplished what the teams set out to do, which was create a safe, cleaner learning environment for students to continue in person education at the Midwest Central schools.



Lighting a New Way for Learning and Saving

In addition to the indoor air quality enhancements made at Midwest Central Schools, more improvement would come in the summer of 2021 when Omni Energy Partners worked with the district to help improve the learning environment in the form of lighting upgrades. State-of-the-art LED Light Fixtures were installed in the Midwest Central Primary School to allow for better lighting in the classrooms while also drastically reducing operating and maintenance costs. In addition to lighting upgrades, the district also included controls as part of the project. "Lighting controls have made a huge impact on our facilities. The teachers love the fact that the lights can be dimmed in the classrooms depending on the teaching situation, and I really appreciate the fact that when I walk in the building at night or on the weekend the lights are not on at all. In the past I could come in at any given time and majority, if not all, of the time the lights would be on in the building, and you then realize that is just money going down the drain" said Hellrigel. These upgrades allow the district to save money every month, eventually allowing more deferred maintenance to be tackled on the district's list.



"At the end of the day I wanted a successful project for my district to create a better learning environment and save energy, and I knew that I could count on Omni Energy Partners to deliver on that. Having an on-site project manager helped avoid delays and kept the process moving along smoothly with no surprises. Omni was transparent with everyone at the district while taking complete ownership of everything from start to finish and beyond. I strongly recommend Omni to any other district looking to tackle projects large and small."

— Dr. Todd A. Hellrigel
Superintendent

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Located in Manito, Illinois, Midwest Central CUSD #191 is led by Superintendent Dr. Todd A. Hellrigel. With three buildings serving students of all ages in the K-12 spectrum, they are focused on providing the necessary resources to ensure all students and employees achieve their maximum potential.

Realizing Results – Over 50% Reduction

Through follow-up analysis at the Midwest Central Primary, Middle and High Schools, a reduction of **53%**, **42%** and **52%** in airborne particles was realized respectively due to installation of Bipolar Ionization technology.

Partnership Opportunities

Omni Energy Partners can assist your district in achieving a decrease in energy costs and drastically improving the learning environment for your teachers and students alike. Let us know if you would like more information about a variety of projects we can assist with, such as:

- Enterprise Heating and Cooling System Improvements
- Lighting Upgrades
- Addressing Building Envelope Needs
- Energy Efficiency Improvements
- Asbestos Abatement
- Bathroom Renovations
- Flooring Upgrades
- New Control Systems
- Ceiling Upgrades

Contact us for more information!

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