

SFM NEWSLETTER



August 2025



BACK TO SCHOOL, BACK TO SAFETY: IS YOUR SCHOOL READY?

With the new school year just around the corner, campuses are preparing for the familiar rush of students, parents, and staff. But with increased activity comes a heightened responsibility to ensure everyone's safety - especially around drop-off zones, parking lots, and pedestrian crossings.

Is your school ready?

At Serva, greater Nashville's trusted leader in school safety solutions, we understand the importance of proactive planning and well-designed safety systems. Mike or Joe from our team can offer expert consultation, drawing on decades of experience to help your school create a safer, more efficient start to the academic year.



**Joe Grimaldi, Serva
Security**



Here are some essential areas school administrators should evaluate. By addressing these critical points, school administrators can foster a safer environment for everyone as the new school year begins:

- **Traffic Flow Management:** Are traffic patterns designed to handle peak times smoothly? Look for clear signage, designated drop-off/pick-up lanes, and routing that prevents bottlenecks.
- **Pedestrian Safety:** Are sidewalks and crosswalks clearly marked and in good condition? Are there strategies to keep pedestrian and vehicle traffic safely separated?
- **Parking Lot Security:** Are lots well-lit and monitored? Are visitor parking and identification procedures clearly defined?
- **Staff Training and Communication:** Have staff been trained on traffic protocols and emergency procedures? Are safety expectations clearly communicated to parents and students?
- **Technology Integration:** Could tools like automated gates, cameras, or digital signage improve safety and efficiency?
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Are there clear plans in place for handling accidents or medical emergencies during busy times?
- **Community Involvement:** Are local law enforcement or community members involved in supporting campus safety? How can local law enforcement and community members contribute to school safety initiatives?

SFM NEWS

This month, we would like to highlight two of our newest clients:

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT



WO Smith provides affordable, quality music instruction to children from low-income families. Founded in 1984 by William Oscar Smith, the school serves children aged 8-18 living in the Metropolitan Nashville area.

Family & Children's Service is dedicated to supporting individuals and families through difficult times. By assessing their unique situations and connecting them with vital resources, F&CS acts as a crucial safety net within social services.



Welcome to the SFM Family!

John Foreman Retirement

SFM recently celebrated the retirement of our CEO, John Foreman. John began his career as an educator immediately after college, dedicating over 25 years to nonprofit and education administration, culminating in his tenure as principal at St. Ann's. Having maintained a close friendship for decades, John joined Chris Corby at SFM in 2003. John served as president for the majority of his time there, later ascending to the role of CEO. We appreciate the warm, approachable presence that John has always maintained, both in his personal and professional life. We wish him a very happy and well deserved retirement!

As John steps down, Phillip Simpson and Michael McCord have stepped into new roles as CEO and COO at SFM. We look forward to stepping into this new chapter at SFM as we continue to serve our customers with excellence!



John Foreman



Michael McCord



Phillip Simpson

Recent Projects

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

At SFM Services, we serve a diverse range of clients, including educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and other mission-driven companies. We understand and embrace our profound responsibility to safeguard the individuals who work for these organizations.

Our team's participation in a recent active shooter training was designed to equip our team with cutting-edge emergency response knowledge, as well as practical response skills. This preparation ensures that our team is not only ready but also highly effective when it matters most – during critical moments when swift and decisive action is important for the safety and well-being of those we protect.

While school is out and staff are enjoying their vacations, SFM is remodeling properties by working on floors, retrofitting building electrics, installing new sewer lines, painting, and overseeing a new roof installation.



THE UNSEEN IMPACT: HOW A CLEAN CAMPUS CONTRIBUTES TO LEARNING

A clean and well-maintained school campus plays a significant role in fostering a positive learning environment. When students, teachers, and staff operate in a clean space, several key advantages emerge that directly impact academic success and overall well-being.



Promoting Positive Behavior and Discipline

Research suggests a link between clean environments and reduced instances of poor conduct. This can contribute to a more disciplined and respectful atmosphere in hallways, common areas, and classrooms, allowing teachers to focus more on instruction and less on behavior management.

Creating a Welcoming and Inspiring Atmosphere

A clean, bright, and well-maintained campus is a more pleasant place to be. It can boost morale for both students and staff, making the school a more inviting and thought-provoking environment for learning. This positive atmosphere can reduce stress, encourage creativity, and make the overall educational experience more enjoyable and effective.

Enhanced Focus

A cluttered or unclean environment can be a source of distraction. Visual chaos, unpleasant odors, or the presence of pests can pull a student's attention away from their studies. In contrast, a clean and organized classroom or school building promotes a sense of order and calm, allowing students to better concentrate on lessons and assignments. This reduction in environmental stressors can lead to improved engagement and deeper learning.

Improved Health and Attendance

Poor sanitation can contribute to the spread of germs and illnesses. A clean campus, regularly disinfected and free of accumulated dust and debris, reduces the risk of students and staff falling ill. Fewer sick days mean more consistent attendance for students, ensuring they don't miss crucial instruction. For teachers, consistent presence translates to better lesson continuity and less disruption to the learning process.

Instilling Pride and Respect

A clean campus sends a clear message: this is a valued space. When students see that their school is cared for, it instills a sense of pride and encourages them to treat the facilities with respect. This can lead to less vandalism, fewer instances of littering, and a general appreciation for the shared learning environment. Such an atmosphere fosters a sense of community and collective responsibility, which can indirectly support a more collaborative and positive learning experience.

At SFM, our custodial services are current with industry advancements. We develop task lists, frequency schedules, and budgets, as well as assist customers in creating custodial RFPs. Reach out to us to learn more about what we can do for your organization!