

BREATHE EASY:

After exhausting maintenance options, Capistrano Unified officials turned to technology to help improve indoor air quality. The compact Sanuvox UV Air Purification Unit was installed in the HVAC system within minutes. Although the unit went unnoticed by students and the teacher, the subtle product worked wonders on the air. In just four weeks, the classroom air quality showed dramatic improvement. An independent lab test documented major reductions in contaminants such as fungal elements, skin cell fragments and pollen. Capistrano officials were delighted, if not a bit amazed by the impressive results.

Capistrano Unified Reduces Indoor Air Contaminants By 66%

Capistrano Unified School District in Southern California had done everything schools knew how to keep classroom air clean for students and teachers. HVAC systems were regularly maintained and classrooms habitually vacuumed. Doors and windows stayed closed to avoid outside pollutants. Even with a tough regiment to provide safe indoor air for students and teachers the district wanted to do more.

So Capistrano put their trust in technology and turned to a new product for help. They put the Sanuvox UV Air Purification Unit to test in a sixth-grade classroom. The small addition was installed in a Bard wall mount HVAC unit within minutes and without any extrusions. There were no noticeable changes in the classroom environment—no new noises, no smell, no contraption in the corner of the classroom. That very subtleness of this product makes its dramatic results so surprising.

“You can’t see it work, you can’t hear it and you can’t smell it,” says Layne Miller, vice president of Geary Pacific Supply. “When it’s done its job, you can’t see that there’s any difference. What we find is there are believers and non-believers. They either understand how it works and it makes sense to them right away, or they think it’s smoke and mirror kind of stuff.”

PROOF IN THE NUMBERS

Lucky for Capistrano students, district facilities officials decided to take belief out of the equation and scientifically prove that the unit can make a difference. Although their senses couldn’t immediately detect an improvement in the air quality, the district had hired an independent laboratory to check the unit’s progress. The air was tested before the unit was installed and then again one month later.

After just four weeks, the improvement in the classroom air quality was dramatic. Fungal elements and skin cell fragments were reduced by two-thirds and pollen was cut in half. The Sanuvox UV Air Purification Unit’s patented ultraviolet light had cleaned the air quickly and thoroughly. Capistrano officials were delighted, if not amazed by the impressive results.

“The application, as far as I know, is cutting edge,” says Ken Harker, maintenance manager for Capistrano Unified. “In the past, it’s simply been vacuuming as much as possible, cleaning and dusting, and changing filters in HVAC units. Now we have a product that appears to take those elements out of the air, which is just substantially more effective.”

Indeed, Capistrano’s regular maintenance routine is common in schools around the country. But it’s not enough. The Sanuvox UV unit picks up where vacuuming, HVAC maintenance and fresh-air ventilation leaves off, literally stripping the air of contaminants. As the classroom air flows through the unit, it is pushed past a two high-powered UV lights. That light eliminates contaminants in the air, such as mold spores, bacteria, mildew, formaldehyde, solvents and viruses. The clean air is then returned to the classroom environment.

“It will eliminate any and all of those contaminants on an ongoing basis and maintain the purity of the air that the kids are breathing in the classroom,” Miller says. “Every 15 to 20 minutes, the air in that classroom will be purified resulting in a major improvement over previous indoor conditions.”

Cleaner air means fewer allergy attacks and less sickness and absences. It also means less maintenance on the HVAC unit and additional energy savings because the ultraviolet light keeps the coil clean allowing the system to work without strain. Quite simply, the Sanuvox UV Air Purification System creates a healthier classroom environment.

For Capistrano, this Sanuvox UV project may have been headed up by facilities officials, but the true results will be in the students’ learning.

“Our district takes air quality extremely seriously,” Harker says. “We provide to the best of our ability the best learning environment possible, and that includes air quality.”

For more information on how the Sanuvox UV Air Purification Unit can purify classroom air in your school, please contact Dave Gorman at 800-444-3279 ext. 122.

	BEFORE	AFTER	IAQ-STK™ GUIDELINES
Total Fungal Elements	1,103	391	100 cts/m ³
Total Pollen	10	5	10 cts/m ³
Skin Cell Fragments	3,805	1,149	2,500 cts/m ³
Opaque Particles	108,207	18,621	50,000 cts/m ³