

## Heating our Schools and Saving Energy

Hi Everyone,

The fall and spring, the transitional months, are the months that we can save the most energy in our buildings. They are also the most difficult times to control comfort levels in the classroom, with cool nights and warm days.

At school our Heating, Ventilating, & Air Conditioning systems (HAVC) are controlled by our computer Energy Management Systems (EMS). It is important to remember that they Do Not operate the same as our home heating systems. At home we can turn the heat on if it's cold at night and turn it off and open the windows, for fresh air, during warmer days. Opening classroom doors and windows at school, when the boilers are on, is like keeping the heat on at home while the doors and windows are left open for 8 hours a day, this would cost you a fortune in heating bills.

Our HVAC systems take many things into consideration when heating and ventilating the classrooms, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. The size of the space, where it located in the building, outside air temperature and CO2 levels are all factored into the heating and ventilating the schools. The systems also need to factor in what happens when 25 students come into a warm classroom. The heat generated by their bodies and the increase in CO2 levels greatly affects the heat and ventilation of the rooms.

For Optimal HVAC Operation, Energy Savings and **Classroom Comfort** the following approved and adopted Energy Guidelines should be followed: (following our energy guidelines space temperatures are set for 68 degrees for heating and 74 degrees for cooling).

1. Classroom doors and windows need to remain closed during the day. **Opening just a few windows and doors can affect the heating of the entire school.**
2. Do not put anything on top of or in front of the Unit Ventilators.
3. Do not block the Exhaust Fan Grill.
4. Don't forget to close blinds/curtains/shades when leaving for the day

NOTE: If you are following the above guidelines and your space is still too warm or cold then please use the Help Desk to report your problem and hopefully it can be resolved in a timely manner. Remember especially this time of year it is difficult to maintain optimal classroom temps. If you continue to have problems please email me. I can install my Data Loggers to record heat/cold over a couple a days to see what is going on in your classroom.

Regards,

Dave