

KENYON-WANAMINGO SCHOOL DISTRICT

SO MUCH BETTER THAN BOTTLED WATER

The Situation

The quality of the drinking water at the Kenyon-Wanamingo elementary school is bad. Visibly discolored and leaving a bad aftertaste, the tap water is pretty much undrinkable. And, the water at the middle/high school is only slightly better. Tracy Erlandson, K – 4 Physical Education teacher at the elementary school, lives in Wanamingo, where the elementary school is located, and doesn't even drink the tap water at her home.

The Pure Water Technology unit has made a huge difference at both the elementary and middle/high school facilities. "We have pure, fresh water that we can drink now," Erlandson said. "And, it is our own water."

Because the source water was so bad, there were a few challenges initially when the Pure Water unit was installed. "It took a few service calls before we got the system just right," Erlandson said. "Each time I called the service technicians were wonderful, really nice and absolutely committed to solving our problem. They figured out we needed a larger filter, installed that, and everything has been perfect."

Pure Water Beats Bottled Water

Kenyon-Wanamingo's schools had bottled water units prior to switching to Pure Water. Erlandson manages the drinking water program and recalls the problems with the bottled water:

STORAGE – Not only did the full and empty water jugs take up valuable storage space, but fire codes prohibited the full bottles from being stored by the water cooler. So, the surplus jugs were stored downstairs from where the unit was. Changing empty bottles required someone to lug a full bottle up the stairs.

CHANGING THE BOTTLES – Some people simply couldn't lift and carry the jugs, so most times, Erlandson ended up being the one to get a phone call when the jugs needed to be changed.

DELAY IN CHANGING BOTTLES – Often, because of people's classroom demands, empty jugs were not replaced right away. So, there were times when water wasn't available or wasn't cold right after the bottle was changed.

BAD TASTE – Erlandson noticed if the jugs sat in storage for awhile there was a bad taste to the bottled water.

INCONSISTENCY IN BILLS – Monthly invoices were never the same with bottled water. This posed problems for Erlandson as the school district doesn't pay for the water – it is individually paid for by a group of teachers who drink the water. Erlandson found herself routinely going back to this group for different amounts each month.



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Customer Success Story

KENYON-WANAMINGO SCHOOL DISTRICT



THE PUREST DRINKING WATER ON THE PLANET

Pure Water Technology is a Hit

The teachers who contribute to pay for the water love Pure Water Technology. Referred to as the “water drinkers” they appreciate the fact that they are getting **pure, healthy water**. They also know they will have ice cold water whenever they want it. And the consistency in counting on the same price every month is a positive. The units also provide hot water which the “water drinkers” also appreciate.

The unit at the elementary school is located in the staff lounge so is easily accessible. The school is undergoing construction projects and the staff has made the water available to the construction workers. **They love it.** At the middle/high school the unit is located in a room by the Community Education office. The location is ideal as it is easily accessible and there are no class interruptions when staff get water.

Erlandson has many favorites when it comes to the Pure Water system. “I like good, freezing cold water,” she said. “At home, I put ice cubes in my water and the Pure Water at school is that cold – all the time.” She also appreciates the convenience of not having to change bottles out and the fact that there are **no more complaints** about the price changing. “Unless you are in charge of the water program, you don’t know the complaints you get,” she said. “There was always something I had to deal with when we had the water bottles. I like coming to school each day and knowing I won’t have any complaints about the water.”

Business Profile

KENYON AND WANAMINGO, MN are two communities approximately 30 miles north of Rochester and one hour south of Minneapolis that have formed one school district. The individual communities have a combined population of 2,700. The Kenyon-Wanamingo School District has approximately 1,000 students attending a K – 4th grade elementary school in Wanamingo and a middle and high school (grades 5 – 12) in Kenyon.



Teachers at the Kenyon-Wanamingo Elementary School enjoy Pure Water Technology. Pictured above in the back row, left to right: Angie Eggert, Renee Hildebrandt, Deb Hinrichs, and Jan Strand. Kneeling in the front is Tracy Erlandson



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