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Three Augusta schools rewarded for having cleanest campuses in Richmond County

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KAMO Manufacturing Company employees Kris Shepherd, left, and Alex Donwen presented three Richmond County schools with a banner Tuesday for having the cleanest campuses in Augusta. The schools honored were Monte Sano Elementary, Glenn Hills Middle and A.R. Johnson High School. DOUG STUTSMAN /Staff

For school custodians, their day-to-day work often goes without recognition.

That changed, however, during Richmond County Board of Education's monthly meeting Tuesday. With KAMO Manufacturing Co. employees Kris Shepherd and Alex Donwen on hand, three schools were rewarded for having the cleanest campuses in Richmond County.

"It's so good to recognize these custodians," said Shepherd, who helps inspect Richmond County schools each month. "For the most part, what they do is a thankless task."

The winners were Monte Sano Elementary, Glenn Hills Middle and A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet High School. Each custodian received a framed certificate, while the school received a banner to hang in its lobby which reads: Clean & Healthy School of the Quarter. The winning custodian staffs will also receive a free lunch from KAMO, which is a janitorial supply company located in Augusta.

At the end of the next quarter, KAMO will recognize three new Richmond County schools for their cleanliness.

"This means a great deal," said A.R. Johnson principal Charlie Tudor, who was on hand for Tuesday's ceremony. "Our team works extremely hard and it's great to see them be recognized. They truly give 110 percent."

Donwen, the director of education for KAMO, praised the staff at A.R. Johnson, saying, "We grade the entire school. Bathrooms, gymnasiums, lunch rooms – everything."

"Part of our duty is to look for improvements at each school," Donwen said. "At (A.R. Johnson), a bathroom had an issue with its floor and their staff was immediately on top of it. I mean, it was corrected very quickly and not every school is like that."

Tudor added: "We have an extremely positive team who works together. That's the main thing: they work together."

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