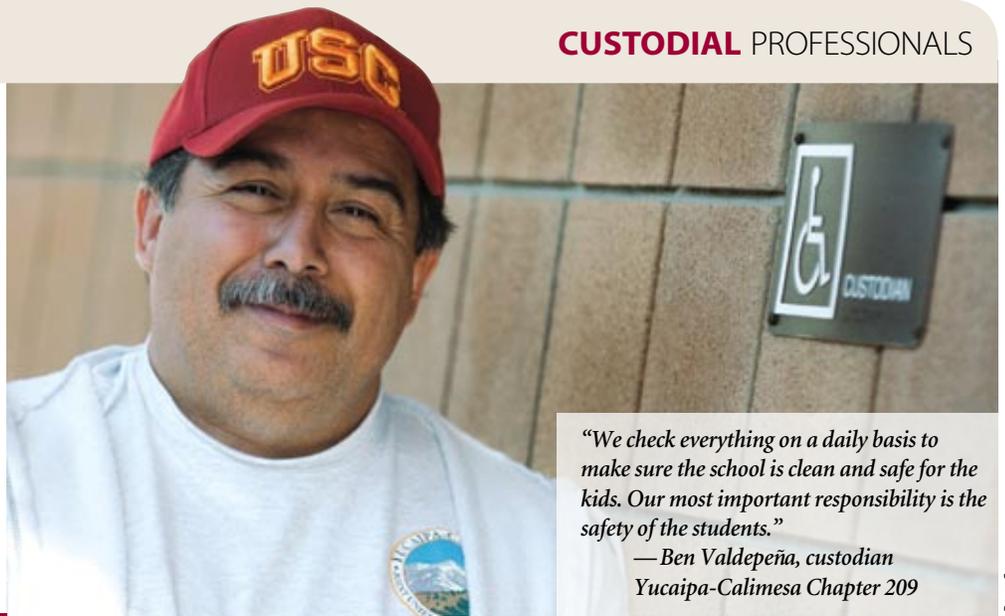


What we do



During their workday, custodians interact with teachers, administrators and parents. They are usually the first ones to arrive on campus to unlock gates, open restrooms, turn alarms off and to make sure the place is clean and poses no hazards to the students. Some custodians work in the evenings to prepare the campus for the following day by cleaning and setting up rooms for the next day's events.



"We check everything on a daily basis to make sure the school is clean and safe for the kids. Our most important responsibility is the safety of the students."

— Ben Valdepeña, custodian
Yucaipa-Calimesa Chapter 209

Brett Snow

INSIDER TIPS

FROM CUSTODIANS

- Always keep an eye out for potential hazards. Items scattered on the floor, burned out light bulbs, bad batteries in smoke detectors, pieces of broken glass and puddles of water may seem insignificant but may result in serious injury.
- When doing household cleaning, you should always wear latex gloves (unless you're allergic). Latex gloves will prevent harsh cleaning chemicals and infectious germs from getting on your hands. Make sure you wash your hands and arms up to your elbows after doing household cleaning.
- Make sure that all cleaning supplies are labeled. This will prevent other members of your household from using these cleaning supplies in the wrong way, and it will also prevent the potentially toxic blending of two different cleaning substances.
- Use common sense around your home. When not in use, make sure that cleaning supplies are stored safely, in a cool environment and away from children.

facts about custodians

- Because of the nature of their job, school custodians must always be aware of any potential hazards on a school campus and have training in handling biohazards and chemicals.
- In many instances, custodians are called to help with disruptive students and to help handle volatile situations when students or people from outside of the school are involved.
- Custodians are often asked by other school staff to help with personal services such as changing tires and jump-starting cars, among other things. They are also often sent to pick up supplies when they are needed for school purposes. Perhaps the most heard phrase at a school is "call the custodian."
- At many campuses, custodians are responsible for all the heating, ventilation and air conditioning for the entire school. They also make sure that the overall environment of the campus is adequate for educating students.

essential
work

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workers



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