

VERMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL ELEVATES ATHLETIC FACILITIES WITH WETWALL™

Lyman C. Hunt Middle School in Burlington, Vermont, home of the Panthers, is an institution committed to cutting-edge curricula and programs that support the campus's students' academic and emotional growth.



That's evidenced by the school's Learning Center, equipped with a Maker Space outfitted with 3D printers and more, and the school's commitment to empowering student engagement and collaboration with impactful technology.

However, one aspect of the school, originally constructed in 1959, needed a critical update – the athletic programs' locker rooms, as well as areas behind assorted water fountains and in bathrooms.

To make the necessary updates, Burlington School District turned to Colin P. Lindberg Architects. In turn, the firm specified Wetwall™, which helped speed up the remodeling process and alleviate labor challenges.

THE CHALLENGE: ELEVATING OUTDATED SPACES TO MEET MODERN NEEDS

The school's primary focus was to update the aforementioned areas, particularly the locker room walls, over the summer holiday, creating a tight timeline for construction.

Further, the installed product, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic needed to be easy to clean and sanitize.

Finally, the school had a clear budget that needed to be met but couldn't afford to

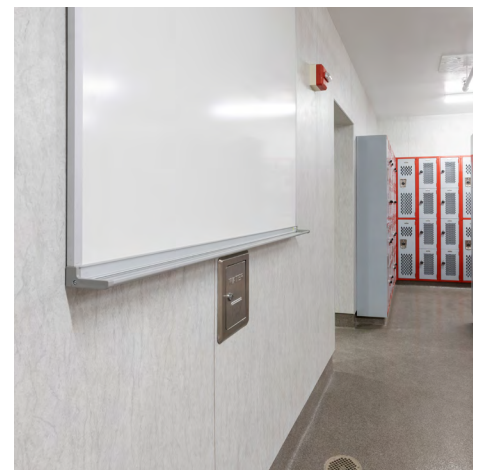
sacrifice quality and longevity. The district wanted a product set to last decades into the future without sacrificing performance.

All those goals created a perfect storm for Colin P. Lindberg and contractor Neagly and Chase Construction, as a solution needed to be specified that offered trend-aware designs, came in under budget, allowed for an efficient construction timeline without extensive specialty knowledge or tools, and was capable of standing up to the rigors of middle school-aged students, particularly when schools once again reached full capacity.

"We were trying to fit it into the tight summer-schedule window. The school only has about a nine-week break," Colin P. Lindberg's Randy Burnett said. "Any time

you're tackling something that requires a lot of trades, like locker rooms and bathrooms ... where you've got a lot of hands touching a small area, it's very tough for the contractors to sequence all that work in such a tight timeframe, especially with these older buildings that we're rehabbing."

"All that really tells the story of product selection and why we were looking for something that would help streamline the schedule – something that was durable." Wetwall Tahiti Sands, W7027 was specified and hit every mark. The product greatly improved the speed of installation, as panels could be applied over existing tile and cinder block.



THE SOLUTION: TURNING TO A PROVEN NAME IN SURFACES WITH AN EXCITING NEW PRODUCT

Burnett, who was involved in specifying the surfaces used on the project, knew where to turn to find a solution that checked all of the boxes.

Though the firm hadn't specified Wetwall™ prior to the project, Burnett said he and his colleagues were confident in the name behind the solution.

"We were looking for something that would save both cost and time, so the school could open on time, without compromising quality and functionality," he said. "When we came across Wetwall, I was immediately intrigued that the actual general contractor could install it. That's one less trade to try and sequence the work."

"We did quite a bit of research. ...I think we got to a point where we had a good comfort level with [Wetwall - A Wilsonart Company]."

The Wetwall installed at the school came with a wide range of added benefits, such as:

- Large-format panels, which provide fewer seams and reduce moisture penetration issues, leading to better durability and cleanliness (Wetwall™ is a patented, water-proof wall panel system technology)
- AEON™ Enhanced Scratch & Scuff-Resistant Performance Technology, which is proven to outperform other surfaces with similar finishes
- Built-in antimicrobial protection in the decorative surface of the panels, inhibiting the growth of stain and odor-causing bacteria, mold, and mildew
- The ability to install the solution over existing tile via adhesive, saving further time in an accelerated construction process



- Ease of installation, as the contractor could work with standard tools and no specialized knowledge, yet complete a perfect installation
- Efficient cleaning and sanitization via spray cleaning and wipe-down methods
- Elevated aesthetics, reinforced by fewer seams, stainless steel transition strips to reinforce outside corners, and neutral tones that lend "hiding power" in the face of daily use and complement splashes of color elsewhere in the spaces

"My team really picked up the installation quickly. Wetwall didn't require anything beyond tools we're already comfortable with to cut and install, and its ability to go over the top of existing material greatly accelerated the overall timeline," said Gary Cahill of Neagly and Chase Construction. "It was a smooth process from start to finish."

THE RESULT: BEAUTIFUL, MODERN SPACES READY FOR ANOTHER 60 YEARS

Though the school likely won't return to full capacity until the fall semester of 2021, the district is confident that the Wetwall™ solution selected will look beautiful and present performance to match for years to come.

"The finish and looks of the wall system are very nice," said Dean Williams, Senior Facilities Technician for Burlington School District. "I think it will be a lot easier on my custodial staff to wipe down. ... [Even with reduced capacity], I am confident and very happy we remodeled our locker rooms with this type of system."

"We've used some of the other products that Wilsonart is associated with, from various countertop materials to solid surface materials, [so] we're familiar with the



Company and the quality of their products," Burnett said. "That helped establish a comfort level that, although it was a new product use, we weren't dealing with a company that was new to the market."

"We felt like this was a Company that was going to stand behind their product."

To learn more about Wetwall™, visit www.wetwall.com.

ABOUT WILSONART

Wilsonart, a world-leading engineered surfaces company, is driven by a mission to create surfaces people love, with service they can count on, delivered by people who care.

The Company manufactures and distributes High Pressure Laminate, Quartz, Solid Surface, Coordinated TFL and Edgebanding, and other decorative engineered surfaces for use in the office, education, healthcare, residential, hospitality, and retail markets.

Operating under the Wilsonart®, Arborite®, Bushboard®, Durcon®, KML®, Laminart®, Mermaid™, New Leaf™, Polyrey®, Ralph Wilson®, Resopal®, Shore™, Technistone® and Wetwall™ brands, the Company continuously redefines decorative surfaces through improved performance and award-winning designs.

For more information, visit www.wilsonart.com or connect with us on Facebook, Houzz, Pinterest, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.