



Conestoga Junior-Senior High School

The Impact of Flooring Design on Learning

EDUCATION

The renovation of the Conestoga Junior-Senior High School in Nebraska turned into a lesson on how flooring design can be inspirational and impact learning.

The 37-year-old Conestoga, which sits in a cornfield in Murray, Nebraska, is not your typical rural school. With a compressed school week, tech-savvy classes and a mission to “inspire and prepare students for life,” Conestoga sets high expectations for student achievement and approaches every project with creativity—including choosing new flooring for the school.

“I really do think color and whatever is in a student’s environment does stimulate what goes on in the classroom, and teachers themselves have more energy

and pride in their classroom,” said Superintendent Beth Johnsen.

So when the aging facility needed a fresh face, Johnsen involved students and faculty in brainstorming a new look for Conestoga. She brought in carpet and tile samples to replace the failing VCT and stained, worn carpet and asked the students what they thought.

“The kids had wild ideas; they wanted something unique,” said Principal David Friedli.

Students and faculty quickly honed in on Mohawk Group’s Street Thread Collection, which features boldly dynamic designs inspired by the work of urban street artists

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Project
Conestoga Junior-Senior High School
School Renovation

Location
Murray, Nebraska

Website
www.conestogacougars.org

Materials
Street Thread carpet tile and
Select Step resilient tile
3,000 square yards hard and soft surface

Project Lead
Dr. Beth Johnsen, Conestoga Public
Schools Superintendent



For patterns, the students chose the type of designs they see every day on their shirts and shoes—styles named Off the Wall, Pop Icon, Super Fresh and Taped Off. In areas where hard surface flooring was a better solution, Select Step Resilient Tile in Stone was used.

The products were a perfect fit in terms of style, performance and maintenance. Street Thread is crafted of Duracolor premium nylon, which offers inherent stain protection, unmatched durability and easy cleaning. Select Step Resilient Tile is a polish-optional floor with a lower life-cycle cost than VCT.

This especially appealed to Friedli. “By not having to strip and wax the floors, we’ve eliminated 10 days of maintenance each summer. A low-maintenance product was important to us.”

Johnsen said, “When you look at that carpet, it’s hard not to have a little bit of inspiration. It catches your eye and brightens up your day when you walk in.”

Conestoga is home to 400 people on an average school day. During events, 600-700 more are using the school. Such high traffic is tough on any carpet, but Street Thread already has been put to the test at Conestoga and come through with flying colors. Friedli recalled the look on a student’s face when he dropped lasagna on the new carpet. “He was mortified, but the custodian simply said, ‘Not a problem. It cleans up right away.’” And it did.

With the new flooring, the school seems brighter and lighter. “It brings an energy every day,” Johnsen said. “When you look at that carpet, it’s hard not to have a little bit of inspiration. It catches your eye and brightens up your day when you walk in.”



The renovation is expected to have an impact on learning and school pride and Conestoga. “It’s amazing what carpet can do,” Friedli said. “Everybody really appreciates the renovation—it tells people that the school really cares. There’s a sense of pride. When students know that you care, they invest themselves in what’s going on. The renovation says that we’re doing innovative and creative things, that here you’ll be inspired and prepared to take that next step.” ■



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