



MIKE COATES
CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.

800 Summit Avenue
Niles, OH 44446
Phone: 330.652.0190

MIKECOATESCONSTRUCTION.COM



Building on Academic Success

New junior/senior high school building elevates educational opportunities in Girard

By John Elliott | Photos by Bill Webb

Last month, more than 700 junior and senior high school students in Girard, Ohio began classes in a modern, combined junior/senior high school building on a 25-acre parcel in an attractive residential neighborhood. The opening of the two-story, 130,000-square-foot, hexagonal-shaped structure with precast concrete and brick exterior and metal roof marks the fruition of a seven-year process.

The new \$26 million building allows the district to continue a tradition of outstanding academic achievement. Eighty percent of the schools' graduates go to college, and the district consistently ranks at the top in state ratings. The high school offers students the opportunity to earn dual credit (high school and college) at Youngstown State University in literature, history, calculus, chemistry and physics.

The new, energy efficient building, which allows the school to continue its engineering, robotics, manufacturing and biomedical programs, replaces a three-story building downtown that expanded in phases since originally built in 1926.

"We did a lot of 'winging it' in the 1980s and '90s," notes Joseph Jeswald, school superintendent, a 35-year veteran of the district. "[The old building] had run its course." It used steam heaters and was not energy efficient, the classrooms were small by modern standards, and additional wiring was needed to allow Internet access. "It wasn't a good situation," Jeswald says.

The Ohio School Facilities Commission determined in 2003 that it made more sense to build a new school than to renovate the old one, Jeswald says.

Beginning the search

In order to qualify for state funding, the Girard school district had to pass a bond levy to come up with its \$5.2 million share of the construction cost.

The school board set up a 22-person search committee and hired TDA

Architecture Inc., based in Willoughby, to help with site selection and a bond campaign. "It's been a long process, but a good one," notes Chris Smith, the project executive for TDA. The architecture firm, along with search committee members, participated in community meetings to understand the public's concerns and to communicate the board's needs.

The voters wanted a building to focus on academic achievement and flexible rooms that could accommodate evolving technology. The voters also wanted



GIRARD JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
GIRARD, OHIO



Over 50 Years of Building Excellence

**We congratulate TDA Architecture & are proud to have been
Structural Engineers for the New Girard Grades 7-12 School.**

PELLER & ASSOCIATES, Inc.
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
842 Corporate Way, Suite 820
Cleveland, Ohio 44145-1537

• TEL. (440) 899-1661 •
• FAX (440) 899-1666 •



www.pellerandassociates.com



SPORTING SEATS The 13,000-square-foot high school gym includes rows of retractable bleachers along two walls, holding a total of 1,300 seats.

a design that would be attractive but still reminiscent of the old brick building. "There was some sentimentality to the original structure," Smith says.

The first site identified was that of a country club and golf course. The owner of that parcel was willing to sell, but the public was ambivalent about it on account of the country club building's historic value. The first attempted levy in 2006 failed.

The search committee then identified a wooded area that was actually located in adjacent Liberty Township. Liberty Township agreed to allow Girard to annex the property.

The site was ideal due to its location and the fact that it was flat. In 2007, voters overwhelmingly supported the bond issue.

Community supports design

Smith says the voters, presented with sample building designs, supported the hexagonal shape, which separates the junior high school section from the senior high school.

The state chose construction managers G. Stephens Inc., of Akron, and PCS Project & Construction Services, of Cleveland, who oversaw the selection of building contractors. The construc-

tion job went out for bid in 2008. Mike Coates Construction Co. Inc., of Niles, was named general contractor. Building construction began in April of 2009 and was completed in about one year, on time and on budget.

"It's probably one of the shortest schedules we've had," says Mike Coates, president of Mike Coates Construction Co., which also recently built the new Warren G. Harding High School in nearby Warren.

"Mike [Coates] has done a lot of school facilities and has a reputation of doing quality work and getting the work done on schedule," Jeswald says.

Smith notes that Jeswald attended the weekly construction meetings. "[Jeswald] did a great job," Smith says.

Green in mind

Wetlands areas at the site were preserved and now serve an educational purpose as well as an environmental one: there are now outdoor land labs behind the building next to the athletic fields.

Jeswald notes that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was concerned about preserving the habitat for a certain bat species, the Indiana bat, and that affected which months they could work.

The design committee was specifically concerned about indoor air quality due to some issues encountered in the old building. "We let everybody know upfront that was a concern of ours," Jeswald says.

Green features within the building include materials with low volatile organic compounds (VOC) and auto-



FLEXIBLE FEATURES The facility's cafeteria doubles as an auditorium by setting up rows of chairs facing a stage.

matic shutoff lights. The HVAC is geothermal, providing energy efficiency.

Easy to navigate

The building design makes it easy to navigate. The junior and senior high school wings run north and south on the eastern side of the building. Separating the two is an octagon-shaped main office building on the first floor. A receptionist monitors video screens which show surveillance views from security cameras positioned throughout the building. The Girard police department provides full-time security.

Across the hallway from the main office area are a nurse's station, restrooms and a perpendicular hallway that leads to the music room, art room, staff dining area and other functional spaces. The larger spaces include the cafeteria, which doubles as an auditorium, separate junior and senior high school gyms, a wrestling room and locker rooms.

A loading dock on the north side of the building allows for food to be delivered quickly three times a week to the kitchen, which is double the size of the previous building's kitchen. The new kitchen has a walk-in freezer and a walk-in cooler.

Cafeteria and auditorium merge

The cafeteria becomes an auditorium by setting up rows of chairs facing a stage. Behind the stage is a music room, which has staggered walls to absorb

sound. The 2,000-square-foot music room has lockers for musical instruments, a separate ensemble room, and the music teacher's office.

Other functional first floor rooms include a coach's office, a storage area and a wrestling room that doubles as extra locker space off-season.

A construction technology room has electrical saws, drill presses and a lathe. Jeswald proudly notes that the school participates in an international robotics competition.

The 13,000-square-foot high school gym has rows of bleachers along two walls, holding a total of 1,300 seats. The junior high gym is 7,000 square feet.

Both gyms have electronic scoreboards and six basketball hoops that can fold up and allow volleyball nets to drop. Both also have sound absorption screens mounted on the walls.

Separate wings

Open stairwells in the central hallway allow students to ascend to the junior and senior high school classrooms on the second floor. The two sections are separated by the library. "We were looking for a way to keep the junior high kids separated from the senior high kids," Jeswald explains. "That was very difficult in our other building."

Student lockers, lining the 10-foot-wide classroom hallways, are black for the high schoolers and red for the junior high kids, the school's two colors. The tile floors also carry the school's colors.

EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT ■

Serving Cleveland and Northeast Ohio Since 1936

We are specialists in:

- Operable Panel Partitions
- Accordion Doors
- Chalk/Marker Boards
- Bulletin Boards
- Trophy & Display Cases
- Signage
- Directories

SALES

INSTALLATION

SERVICE

845 Overholt Rd., P.O. Box 154, Kent, Ohio 44240 — Phone (330) 673-4881 Fax ((330) 673-4915)



proud to have provided
architecture services
for the new

Girard Junior & Senior High School

good people
doing
great things.

architecture . planning . interior design

cleveland . chicago
t 440 269 2266 f 440 269 2277
www.thendesign.com

T6

**Data : Voice : Video
Sound : Security**

Assessment
Commissioning
Consultation
Design
Implementation
Project Management



Proud to be part of the team at Girard Junior-Senior High School

101 Green Meadows Drive South, Suite 110 • Lewis Center, Ohio 43035
ph: 614-880-2552 • fax: 614-880-2554 • thom@t6inc.com • www.t6inc.com

Proud to be part of the team at Girard Junior/Senior High School!

YOUR TILE CENTER INC.

Commercial & Residential Flooring

JOE ANGELILLI & SONS
409 5th St., Struthers, OH 44471

330-755-4228



THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SNOW BUSINESS

SNOW BIZ INC.

SPECIALISTS IN SNOW & ICE MANAGEMENT SINCE 1978

Serving the snow & ice management needs of commercial & industrial customers in Northeast Ohio. We're a full service snowplowing and de-icing company with 24-hour radio dispatched equipment, specializing in snow plowing, salting, de-icing agents & snow removal for shopping centers, malls & plazas, hotels & conference centers, and more.

1310 Brookpark Rd., Cleveland, OH 44109

216-398-0723 • 1-866-24-7-PLow

Fax: 216-741-6731

www.snowbizinc.com



**PROUDLY SERVING COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL
CUSTOMERS IN NORTHEAST OHIO FOR OVER 30 YEARS.**

We spend all summer getting ready for winter!

All lockers have built-in locks, a convenience not found in the old building.

The second floor science labs include two labs for physics, chemistry and biology that allow the school to participate in a state initiative known as Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Each of these has 26 desktop computers.

STEM instruction includes bio-medical sciences, engineering, construction technology, and robotics, with a manufacturing curriculum in the planning stage.

The second floor library can be accessed by both the junior and high school wings. The entry area to the library is visible to passersby in the hallways, thanks to large windows. The entry areas of the octagonal-shaped library are carpeted and have book tables and furniture. The check-out desk is situated between the two entry doors, one for the junior high schoolers and the other for the senior high schoolers.

The library has islands of mahogany veneer book cases and desktop computers with Internet access. The area has a lot of natural light, thanks to large windows offering a view of the residential neighborhood. A wall-mounted video screen carries school announcements.

The home economics classroom has a washer, a dryer, microwave ovens, an oven range and wet sinks, in addition to worktables.

Moving forward

"It's the dawn of a new era," says William Ryser, the high school principal, noting that the new building enhances the learning environment, is energy efficient and has more amenities than the previous building for junior and senior high school. "It's an unprecedented opportunity for this community, for the kids to have an opportunity to learn in an environment like this."

Jeswald is encouraged by the fact that the school has already achieved high marks by the state. He further noted that the high school was recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* magazine as one of the nation's best schools for providing opportunity in secondary education.

"Having a new school just invigorates that whole community," Smith, the architect, says. **P**

P | C | S

*An Employee Owned and Operated Organization
Providing Construction Services Since 1988*



*Proud to be the Associate Construction
Manager on Girard Junior/Senior High
School. Congratulations to the District and the
OSFC as well as G. Stephens and TDA*

Construction Management □ General Contracting

2000 Main Street, Suite 212, Wheeling, WV 26003 • Phone: 304-242-5066
1360 East 9th Street, Suite 910, Cleveland, OH 44114 • Phone: 216-619-1700
United Center, 500 Virginia Street, East, Charleston, WV 25301 • Phone: 304-907-0745
www.pescmservices.com

MID STATE RESTORATION, INC.

MASONRY RESTORATION SPECIALISTS SINCE 1954



Specializing in:

- Brick Repairs
- Stone Restoration
- Building Cleaning
- Concrete Restoration
- Caulking/Tuckpointing
- Water Repellents
- Total Repairs & Replacement of Lintels, Parapet & Terra Cotta

**PRESERVING THE PAST WITH PRIDE AND
COMMITMENT FOR THE FUTURE!**

2521 MONROE AVENUE • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44113-4121
(216) 771-2112 • FAX (216) 771-0508

VISIT OUR WEB PAGE @ www.midstaterestoration.com



Girard Junior/Senior High School

Designed by TDA & built by Mike Coates Construction Co.

READY TO MAKE THE STEP UP FROM 35MM?

Let Infinity Studio introduce you to Phase One Medium Format High Dynamic Range Digital Imaging, now using 4 Phase One Digital Lenses. Experience firsthand the stunning World Class Color & Detail in the most Dramatic, Compelling, Award-Winning Compositions which will exceed your expectations. View recent projects at www.infinity-studio.com.

Infinity Studio Photography

William H. Webb
whwebb1@sbcglobal.net
216-631-1987

"Visions Of Design" by Panache Publishing available now.