



Hamilton Elementary School Cypress, TX

Building Owner: Cypress/Fairbanks, ISD
Architect: Spencer Herolz Architects
General Contractor: Spaw-Glass, Inc.
Director, Facilities Planning and Construction: Van E. Franks
Size of Installation: 3,000 linear feet
Product: ULTRAWALL® Relocatable Partition System



There's really very little that Van Franks, Director of Facilities Planning and Construction with the Cypress/Fairbanks Independent School District, doesn't like about USG Interiors' ULTRAWALL partition system. That's why he has had the system installed in so many of the district's schools, such as the recently built Hamilton Elementary School.

Franks likes the durable factory-applied vinyl finish that covers the 3,000 linear feet of relocatable gypsum panels, and says it's more durable than field-applied vinyl on standard drywall.

"In the past, when we used fixed drywall with field-applied vinyl, we found that in three to five years, the joints really seemed to show up. It was unattractive. But the ULTRAWALL system, with the V-groove joints and $\frac{3}{8}$ " thick panels, stays very clean-looking. The panels are much more substantial," says Franks, "and the vinyl finish is almost twice as thick as field-applied vinyl."

Franks likes the vinyl-finished ULTRAWALL system so much that he even topped concrete block walls — built in accordance with local fire codes to surround mechanical rooms — with it. "We fastened H-channels against the concrete block," he says, "and ran our vinyl-covered panels right along the block, to match the adjacent relocatable panels."

But Franks especially likes the economics of the ULTRAWALL system, on both a first cost and a life-cycle basis.

"When you compare costs of the ULTRAWALL system to regular fixed drywall with field-applied vinyl, the difference is negligible. And when you add the ease of maintenance, the durability, and the added bonus of being able to easily relocate the walls," says Franks, "the ULTRAWALL system is just a better product. And the whole school district feels the same way. That's why we've used it in more than 14 schools."

Hamilton Elementary offers 84,800 sq. ft. of space to more than 970 students, teachers and administrative staff. Hamilton's square footage is divided into 52 teaching stations, four special education stations, three computer labs, a music room, physical education room, library and cafeteria — a combination of cafeteria and auditorium.



PROJECT PROFILES

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