



## nora® Stars in Reiffton School

When designer Charlotte Stoudt of Gilbert Architects, Lancaster, PA, began work on Reiffton School, Reading, PA, her goal was to design a space that was unique and one that would excite the fifth and sixth grade students who attend the school. "At the same time," she added, "Whenever we do a school we want to give the school district the best possible products we can – durable products that will last and in the long term, reduce costs and ultimately save money."

Architects at the firm, influenced by the Pennsylvania Dutch heritage in the Reading area, incorporated a barn theme in their plan for the new school. Stoudt carried that theme inside the building, using an Americana palette of reds, blues and creams along with the stars depicted on barns and hex signs in the area. "The star is everywhere in the building," said Stoudt, "on walls, on the end of library stacks, in carpeting and even in the floor."

According to Stoudt, it was easy to incorporate the star design in the **nora®** rubber flooring that covers the cafeteria, science and learning labs, classrooms, the art room and the nurse's suite. "The colors of the **noraplan®** stone blended beautifully with other materials in the building and the stars in the floors ended up looking just great."

Stoudt also appreciated the performance features rubber brought to the project. "I knew we were getting a very good product that was going to last a long time. Durability and long life are important in school settings where buildings are typically touched by the design process once every 30 years." Ease of maintenance was also appealing as were the sound absorption qualities of the **nora®** product. "In a school where lots of children are moving together through hallways, the softer surface that rubber offers goes a long way toward helping to make the building quieter."

The ability of rubber to address performance issues so important in an educational setting while supporting a unique design that inspires students made the choice of **nora®** products the right one for Stoudt. "I am so pleased with the results," she said. "I have no complaints whatsoever – aesthetically or functionally."

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