



Columbia High School, Decatur, GA

nora[®] Floor Coverings Fly Down Hallways of Renovated High School

When students walk through the doors of Columbia High School in Decatur, GA, bright hallways, colorful finishes and new furnishings greet them. But this was not always the case. Renovations during the past three years are bringing the 40-year-old building up to DeKalb County standards and into the 21st century, instilling pride in the school's 1,400 students in the process.

Students have much to be proud of, right down to the floors they walk on. As designers with Vincent Pope + Associates, Inc., Tucker, GA, planned the renovation, they incorporated eagles, the school mascot, into the floor design and watched their design take flight in the nora[®] floor coverings they selected for the project.

Eagles, dressed in the school's orange and blue color scheme and waterjet cut from noraplan[®] eco and noraplan logic, appear at corridor intersections in the high school's renovated Third Hall and fly randomly down hallways in the new career technology center. "They look great, coordinate beautifully with colors throughout the building and help to brighten our hallways," said Cammie Neill, assistant principal at Columbia High School.

nora products have a similar effect in the auditorium lobby, where a harlequin pattern of norament[®] luxor introduces an interesting design element to the gathering place. In the weight room, the extremely impact-resistant norament 992 grano attractively provides extra thickness to withstand weights dropped on its surface. "Even in the weight room, the floor looks great, attesting to the versatility of nora products," commented Vanessa Shorter, director of interiors at Vincent Pope + Associates, Inc. "You can do so much with nora floor coverings – cut designs, create fun patterns and match colors from an amazing color palette. I wish I could use every color that's available!"

As pleased as she is with the aesthetic value the floors bring to Columbia High School, Shorter and project architect Joseph Thompson also appreciate the performance features the floors deliver. According to Thompson, "DeKalb County standards include a movement to make schools as green as possible. Environmentally friendly nora products



really help to move us in that direction, offering a product that eliminates the need to use harsh strippers or wax to maintain its appearance."

Ease of maintenance attracts the attention of Neill and the school's custodial staff. "The floors are so easy to keep clean," said Neill. "Much to our staff's delight, custodians do not need to wax or strip them. Cleaning is simple, saving our staff considerable time and significantly reducing the amount of money we spend on cleaning products."

Durability, too, is important to Neill. "Realistically, we're probably looking at a 20-year period before we'll be able to do another renovation," she noted. "So, the products we selected for this renovation need to be durable, long-lasting products. The nora floor appears to be just that."

As students and staff adjust to their new surroundings, comments about the floor are finding their way to administrators and designers involved in the project. "Everyone agrees that the floors look great," said Thompson. "But we're also hearing that teachers that do a lot of walking and standing in the course of the day are finding the nora floors much easier on their feet. And it's quieter, especially in Third Hall, which is probably the most populous and busiest portion of the school."

The results are pleasing to everyone who touches the project. "What I like best," said Neill, "is that the renovation has brought excitement to our building. It looks and feels brighter and the climate of the school is much better as a result. We're proud of our surroundings, and everyone, from students to staff, is invested in caring for it so it continues to look this great and feel this good."

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Camie Neill
Assistant Principal
Columbia High School



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