

## **School shows better building is fundamental:** ***Mesa, Arizona High School Meets Challenge with Solution to Key Performance Needs***

The Mesa School District is applying a construction strategy where building health, noise abatement, efficiency and longevity are an integral part of key performance solutions in a positive learning environment.

*Mesa, Arizona*, located in Maricopa County, is one of the nation's fastest-growing cities being the 3rd largest city in the state of Arizona and the 40th largest city in the United States. There are solid reasons for Mesa's growth; one of which is its superior school system. Taking advantage of Mesa's attractive lifestyle, more than 430,000 people call Mesa home. The City provides the advantages of a thriving metropolis while maintaining the feel of a suburban environment.

The Mesa school district is the largest school district in the state, with enrollment exceeding 73,000 students. The district has gained a national reputation based upon its commitment to basic skills and its award-winning innovations in curriculum and support services. Parents and citizens who care about their schools, a top-notch staff and exceptional students make Mesa one of the finest school districts in the nation. Mesa students are a continual source of pride. They have netted top state and national awards in everything from leadership and scholarship to sports, fine arts and vocational activities.

As one of America's outstanding school districts, its primary mission is to provide opportunities for students to learn as they prepare for the future. Students have access to comprehensive educational programs in which they are taught to become productive and successful. Basic skills and the ability to acquire knowledge are emphasized. Students are encouraged to develop a respect for themselves and others, and to become responsible citizens fully capable of exercising their right to self-determination in a free society.

Faced with a rapidly increasing student population, the Mesa School District is applying a construction strategy in which building health, efficiency and longevity are as integral to the architectural features and educational technology. As a result of the positive stance, the district has received positive local and national recognition for its commitment to establishing a healthy learning environment in district schools.

Mesa High School's new 2,200 square foot Orchestra Facility is a shining example of the steps this group has taken to earn and maintain its sterling reputation. The Mesa High School project

.../more

## BETTER BUILDING IS ELEMENTARY - PAGE 2

involves integrating new concepts in building; proving that greener, healthier, more sustainable schools can be built at a comparable or lower cost than conventional schools, while delivering ongoing energy cost-savings of more than 30 percent.

One of the most important features of the Mesa High School project won't be visible to students. The classroom features the Icynene Insulation System<sup>®</sup>, a light-density, spray foam insulation which, when sprayed as a liquid, expands 100 times its initial volume in seconds to fill every crevice and gap, creating a complete air barrier. David Peterson, Director of Operations states, "Budget is always a factor. Looking at the many benefits of this product, both now and in the future; it is clear to me that the Icynene Insulation System<sup>®</sup> is more than an excellent value; it is an investment that will provide dividends for years to come."

The use of sustainable building materials, including an advanced insulation and air sealing system, will help extend the lifespan of the building by 40-50 years, delivering added value to taxpayers.

Project Architect Boyd Thacker specified Icynene<sup>®</sup> on this project, not merely as a highly effective insulation, but also due to its effectiveness in reducing condensation and improving indoor air quality. Additionally, the spray foam will have a significant effect on reducing air-borne sound penetration. "We are always looking for innovative ways to help our clients achieve their objectives. With an increasing focus on building health and longevity, occupant health and energy efficiency, the Icynene Insulation System<sup>®</sup> has allowed us to do that for the Mesa High School project."

The success of this project was due to a well orchestrated team effort by the Owner, Architect and Builder. Prior to this project, General Construction Superintendent Ken Baker had not been involved with a project using the Icynene product. "As a General Contractor, we see a wide variety of products designed to solve various building challenges. After seeing the Icynene Spray Foam application method, it become obvious that this product is far superior to anything else on the market; the only way to truly air seal a structure".

Icynene's high performance in educational applications has been widely demonstrated, including a two-story manufactured high school (New Jersey) certified by the Earth Advantage program, the Fine, Performing, and Communications Arts High School (Detroit, Michigan), which qualified for LEED Silver rating by the U.S. Green Building Council, Colby College

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### **BETTER BUILDING IS ELEMENTARY - PAGE 3**

(Waterville, Maine) and Comal Independent School District projects (near San Antonio, Texas).

With a reasonable investment, Mesa High School proves that greener, healthier, more sustainable schools can be built at a comparable or lower cost than conventional schools, while delivering a healthier, quieter and more energy-efficient facility. When you consider the school's present insulation systems, the savings will continue to accumulate for years to come.

[.../more](#)

**BETTER BUILDING IS ELEMENTARY - PAGE 4**

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