

Carpet Passes

the Test of Time at Prospect Valley Elementary School



The year was 1967 and the Monkees were "Daydream Believers," the Turtles were "Happy Together" and the Jefferson County School District was building a radical new school. Peace, love and carpet were on the agenda for Prospect Valley Elementary.



The
Antron[®]
DIFFERENCE

only by INVISTA

CASE STUDY:

Prospect Valley Elementary School
Wheat Ridge, CO

Architecturally speaking, the new Prospect Valley Elementary School in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, was on the cutting edge of education design. It featured an open floor plan to maximize teacher-student interaction and promote a group-learning environment centered by a theater-in-the-round, affectionately called "The Forum." But at the time, the school's most unique feature was the carpet.

Then considered an extravagance, Prospect Valley was the first school in the district to specify this "avant-garde" flooring selection. The school district was met with opposition when it announced its intentions in 1967, but the superintendent and design team held firm on the many benefits of carpet.

Educators and taxpayers alike can agree today that carpet is the logical choice for educational environments. It softens the floor as an additional learning space, it helps control ambient noise levels, and it creates a better learning environment for students, faculty and staff. Not to mention the fact that it remains a cost-conscious specification, even as school budgets are declining.

Studies show that the indoor environments of schools are directly related to human health, image, self-esteem and attitude, all of which affect academic performance. Carpet is one of the most commonly specified floorcoverings in the classroom simply because it is stimulating, comfortable and safe. And it can withstand the heavy foot traffic from decades of little feet running over it.

While other interior finishes at Prospect Valley Elementary have been modified over time, the carpet remains intact and is being enjoyed in classrooms, the library and the Forum just as much today as the day it was installed 37 years ago.

Ironically, even the vibrant colors still work. Words previously used to describe them, such as "Lime Green" and "Peacock," have morphed into "Kiwi"

and "Aegean" to remain hip with trendy fashion vocabulary. Nevertheless, the blue and green carpets have a natural appeal that bring a serene sense to the school's interior environment — and as any teacher will tell you, serenity is a good thing!

"By specifying and maintaining durable products that last longer and perform exceptionally well throughout their service life, Jefferson County Public Schools has demonstrated true commitment to sustainability," said Dave Bouton, business director for INVISTA. "When carpet can remain on the floor for an extended period of time, less energy is used, fewer raw materials are consumed and less waste is generated."

The Jefferson County School District credits the longevity both to the product, constructed of Antron® carpet fiber, and to an exceptionally dedicated maintenance staff. It has extended the like-new appearance of the floor and has saved the school a great deal of money in replacement costs. Over time, Antron® carpet fiber has become the floorcovering of choice for other county schools, amounting to more than 6 million square feet of specified carpet.


Anne Rutkofsky, now retired, started as a first-year teacher the year the carpet was installed. "This carpet has proven performance, standing up to nearly four decades of crayons and spills," she said, "It even outlasted me!"

Performance

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— Anne Rutkofsky, first-year teacher in 1967, now retired

Performance



Antron® uses the four hole hollow filament shape which minimizes the soil trapping area of the fiber and enhances soil resistance. The four holes refract and diffuse light to hide the effects of soil, while the smooth outer surface makes it easier for soil to be released during cleaning.

Sustainability



A carpet that stays on the floor longer is a smart environmental choice. Fewer raw materials are consumed, less energy is used and less waste is generated. This is consistent with the 3 R's of waste reduction — Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Teachers nationwide say carpet enhances student performance, and they prefer it as the floor covering of choice.* Carpet contributes to a better learning environment by providing **safety, comfort, noise reduction** and **anti-glare**.

*source: Beth Schapiro & Associates survey of 1,050 public school teachers

For more information about Antron® carpet fiber, please call 1-877-5-ANTRON or visit antron.invista.com.

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