

Restroom Partitions from Scranton Products Complement the Sleek, Modern Look of Lake Forest Academy's New Science Center



Lake Forest Academy in Lake Forest, Illinois, is rich in history and tradition and today is one of the country's most renowned and prestigious independent, coed, boarding schools in the country. Established in 1857 as a boys' preparatory department of the former Lind University, the Academy has undertaken many changes throughout the years most significantly being the addition of the girl's preparatory department in 1869. There were a few name changes along the way and eventually, in 1988, the school became Lake Forest Academy. There are currently 425 students in grades nine through 12. The Academy also provides a wide selection of summer programs each year.

As Lake Forest Academy and its student population grew so did the need for new dormitories and other buildings. Beginning in the 1950's the Academy expanded its campus by adding more than 10 common areas, dormitories, sporting facilities and more. The Science Center, the newest addition to the 435,000 sq. ft. campus, was completed in August 2013.

Groundbreaking for the Science Center took place in June 2012 and, since this was a new construction project, Kelly Mede, Director of Facilities, and her team had the opportunity to specify all building materials from the ground up.

"Since this was a Science Center, our goal was to create a learning environment that was clean and modern looking," said Mede. "The plan was to have natural stone, concrete and steel/chrome accents throughout the structure as well as an atrium in the center."

Selection of the bathroom partitions for the new Science Center was easy—Mede knew exactly what had worked in other buildings. "We've done several renovations here on the campus and for the bathroom partitions, we had started to move away from traditional metal to HDPE, a material that is much more durable and easier to maintain," said Mede, who oversees the repairs and maintenance of all the buildings on the campus. "The metal partitions had rust problems and required a lot of maintenance. Hinges need to be replaced frequently and the partitions peeled so they often required repainting."



Lake Forest Academy
Hiny Hiders Bathroom Partitions
Partitions shown in Stainless Steel
with a EX Texture

Mede and facilities team chose Scranton Products Hiny Hiders® solid bathroom partitions because they found them to be a very durable product that would also alleviate many of the maintenance and cleanliness issues associated with the metal partitions. Constructed from premium HDPE, they also offer a sustainable solution for restroom stall partitions.

Mede presented the Science Building Committee with the suggestion of the continued use of the Hiny Hiders and they concurred, choosing the Metallic Collection's Stainless Color with EX texture. The texture has a pattern of raised dots with a ridged texture. And, even though they are manufactured of solid plastic, the partitions feature a bold, metallic look without the high cost of stainless steel. Seven partitions were installed in the Science Center, three in the men's bathroom and four in the women's bathroom.

"The key to this project was finding an alternative to expensive stainless steel restroom partitions. The color and texture we chose was perfect for the contemporary design of the new Science Center. The partitions look just like stainless steel," said Mede. "Their sleek, modern clean look is exactly the look we were going for."



"For anyone who is currently specifying a project or a job that requires bathroom partitions, I would tell them to consider using Hiny Hiders. They are durable, they are sustainable and they're going to last."

Cleaning can be a problem with wood or metal partitions, especially with marks in surfaces that can harbor bacteria or that are prone to graffiti. That is why HDPE designed to look like metallic or wood finishes are becoming popular, both by aesthetic-

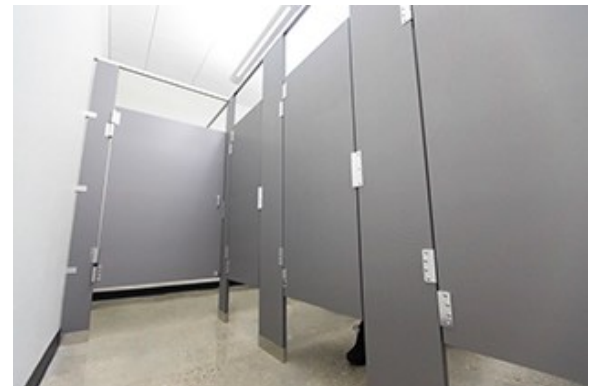


minded designers and maintenance managers who oversee cleaning staffs.

From a cleanliness point-of-view, Hiny Hiders provide the Academy with another substantial benefit. The non-porous surface of HDPE is naturally resistant to bacteria, odors, mold and mildew. From drinking fountains, water faucets or computer keyboards, schools today are a hotbed for germs and avoiding them is nearly impossible. HDPE won't retain germs and the surface is very easy to clean. Graffiti also wipes off easily with most non-abrasive cleaners. The partitions can also be power washed and steam cleaned without the worry of rust.

Today, according to Mede, the partitions have proven to be low-maintenance. "We've had virtually no maintenance issues in any of the restroom stalls and they look as good today as when we first installed them. We simply wash them down from time to time and they look virtually brand new after almost a year of use."

Mede adds, "For anyone who is currently specifying a project or a job that requires bathroom partitions, I would tell them to consider using Hiny Hiders. They are durable, they are sustainable and they're going to last."



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