

## Scranton Products' Duralife Lockers® Prove to be a Time and Labor Saver for Re-Built Danville Middle School



In September 2011, flooding from Tropical Storm Lee forced the closure of the Danville Middle School in Danville, PA. The auditorium was eight feet under water and most classrooms, hallways, library, cafeteria and gymnasium had several feet of water as well. Serving as the hub for the school district's computer servers and communication equipment; the flooding also disabled the entire district's computer and telephone networks. More than 550 students in grades six through eight had to be relocated to other schools in the district while everything inside the building was demolished and replaced.

"It was devastating to the students, teachers and entire staff," said Charles Smargiassy, principal of Danville Middle School. "Everyone wondered if the school would ever recover."

Danville Middle School was starting from scratch. New flooring had to be installed throughout the first floor of the building. The gymnasium, auditorium, classrooms and offices had to be gutted. The school lockers, contaminated with bacteria from the sewage treatment plant adjacent to the school, had to be ripped out and replaced. While it was a devastating situation, it did create an opportunity for the district to construct a new building which was not only virtually flood-proof, but allowed for an update to newer technology with Internet capabilities and new air conditioning in the auditorium.

"We were basically going to build a brand new school, one that would be prepared in case of another flood. We had the opportunity to retrofit our building with materials that would endure such a disaster should there ever be another flood like the one in September 2011," said Smargiassy.

*Durability and low-maintenance were of utmost importance when selecting new building materials for the school. These two features played into the selection of Scranton Products' Duralife Lockers® for the corridors and gymnasium locker rooms. Duralife Lockers, made from premium, American-made solid HDPE, are impact and bacteria resistant, and are easy to keep clean.*



Duralife Lockers shown in Violet. Installed in Danville Middle School

“Lockers are a big part of a student’s life when they are in school. They like to personalize their lockers with pictures, drawings, stickers and other items,” said Smargiassy. “School athletes can also be a little rough on their lockers. We had an opportunity to replace our worn metal lockers with about 840 new high-quality lockers that were tough and resistant to the normal day-to-day abuse of the students.”

“We had a lot of maintenance issues with the metal lockers so we were anxious to explore some different options,” said Rick Engle, director of maintenance for the Danville School District. “Permanent markers and tape were nearly impossible to remove. We either had to paint the lockers or use a solvent-based cleaner which removed the paint entirely or dulled the surface.”

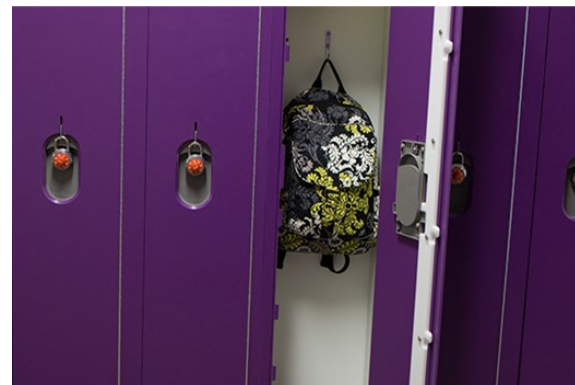
HDPE is naturally resistant to bacteria, odors, mold and mildew and the non-porous surface is very easy to clean. Graffiti wipes off effortlessly with most non-abrasive cleaners and stickers and contact paper are easily removed. The lockers can also be power washed and steam cleaned without the worry of rust.



*“And because they’re plastic, the school won’t have to remove or replace damaged, rusted or corroded parts,” added*

Duralife Lockers are also the only line of solid HDPE school lockers that are fully fire-rated (compliant with NFPA 286) as well as being GREENGUARD Children & Schools CertifiedSM for improved indoor air quality.

The Duralife Lockers installed in the corridors and the gymnasium locker rooms have been a real hit with the students. “They are wider than the metal lockers so they can now store their backpacks. And, since they chose their school color of purple for the lockers they may have a sense of ownership and pride,” said Smargiassy. “Plus since the students were put out of their school for two years they might be a bit more careful with the upkeep of their lockers.”



Nearly two years after the start of the project, students and faculty returned to their school for the start of the 2013-2014 school year. The school has brand new technology, air conditioning system, fresh paint throughout, a brand new auditorium, new lockers and most importantly, the building is flood proof. “Everything inside the school is either plastic or cement, we have special flood vents and all of the electric outlets are at least four feet off the ground,” said Smargiassy. “All surfaces, floors and walls and lockers can all be easily cleaned so if we do have a flood again in the future, this building will come back in a lot less time.”

