



ELEMENTARY/EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL

Silas Willard Elementary School Galesburg, IL



From chalkboards to touch screen monitors, Silas Willard Elementary underwent monumental changes building their new school. Silas Willard has been a source of great pride in this community where in 1917 future president Ronald Reagan attended first grade. Yet many in the community knew the school needed change, since the century-old building had remained unchanged while technology rapidly advanced. The Galesburg community explored several options, from renovating to additions, and concluded that building a new school was the best option to provide students an

educational environment that met 21st century demands.

Merging schools, district changes, and waves of new enrollment meant the old Silas Willard couldn't accommodate the students within the district. Instead, many students were bused to other schools. If maximum capacity were the only issue Silas Willard faced, a renovation and addition would have sufficed. Unfortunately, much of the building and its systems had reached the end of their useful service life. With all the work needed to bring Silas Willard up to par, it was not financially

feasible to renovate. Nor would this meet Galesburg's goals for the project.

The community of Galesburg desired a 21st century educational facility to give its students the best possible opportunities. It wanted a school that incorporates 21st century technologies, and a program that includes an art room, music room, gymnasium, cafeteria, auditorium, and classrooms for up to 600 students. The new school also had to be designed to fit within existing site constraints, and constructed while the old facility was still in use and serving students. AY32

New Construction

Entire School Building

Cordogan Clark & Associates

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Aurora, IL 60506
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Joseph Cordogan
630-896-4678

OWNER/CLIENT

Galesburg Community Unit School District #205
Galesburg, IL
Ralph Grimm, Superintendent

KEY STATS

Grades Served: K-5
Capacity: 600
Size of Site: 6.25 acres
Building Area: 72,000 sq. ft.
Space per Student: 120 gsf, 96 net sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$28,334
Square Foot Cost: \$236.11
Project Cost: \$17,000,000
Completion Date: May 2016

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