



The Dayton Regional STEM School

Kettering, OH

Remodel/Adaptive Reuse/ Restoration

Entire school/campus building

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DESIGN TEAM

Jeffrey Sackenheim, AIA, LEED AP,
Principal
Jim Schriefer, AIA, LEED AP, Technical
Lead
Brian Hilvert, IIDA, LEED AP, Interior
Design
Messer Construction

OWNER/CLIENT

The Dayton Regional STEM School
Kettering, OH
Matt Grushon, Director of Operations
937/256-3777

KEY STATS

Grades Served: 6–12
Capacity: 625 students
Size of Site: 4.87 acres
Building Area: 62,000 sq. ft.
Space per Student: 99 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$6,400
Square Foot Cost: \$64
Construction Cost: \$4,000,000
Project Cost: \$4,400,000
Completion Date: August 2013

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Nowhere is the trend of changing educational models clearer than the emergence of programs devoted to STEM education. But few STEM schools have the opportunity to overhaul a former big-box retailer into an open, energetic space that encourages interdisciplinary study and experimentation. As an elective school for grades 6–12 in the nine surrounding districts, DRSS's

popularity in the past years has surged, necessitating a waitlist. Given its proximity to a large Air Force base, the school also includes a high proportion of students from military families. This base, coupled with other strategic partnerships with universities, military communications companies and even videogame software developers truly provides dynamic opportunities for a diverse group of students.

For this adaptive reuse, completed in only seven months, the design team embraced the light structure and expansive column spacing to create multidisciplinary spaces that reflect the collaborative nature of the STEM curriculum. Pulling natural daylight deep into



the floor plate was a goal from the start, as was sharing this daylight through large expanses of transparent wall systems, which allow for visual connections between the varied spaces within. Large collaborative areas flow seamlessly into the 30-foot corridors, hosting everything from art exhibits to robotics experiments.

