

James Hardie Makes the Grade on School Campuses Around the Country



©2006 Jeffrey Jacobs Photography Inc.

Dean Henrick is the Maintenance Director for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District in Ketchikan, Alaska. According to Henrick, the area is situated in the middle of a temperate rainforest, and receives about 180 inches of rain annually—about 15 feet of water.

“It’s often horizontal rain,” he says, reaching 100 miles-per-hour on occasion. Henrick, who learned about HardiePlank™ lap siding through ads and personal recommendations, pushed for HardiePlank™ lap siding (in agreement with the consulting architect) on two of the classroom buildings. He says the HardiePlank™ lap siding has successfully defended against Alaska’s extreme elements, and recommends it for other districts considering the switch.

Lodge-like and Low Maintenance

Memphis-based architectural firm Askew Nixon Ferguson Architects has also found HardiePlank™ lap siding to be a smart choice for educational clients.

According to partner Rebecca Conrad, the firm is nearing completion on a four-phase project in Collierville, Tennessee, for St. George’s Independent Schools. The 125-acre campus includes a middle school, high school, chapel and gymnasium—all featuring HardiePlank™ lap siding above a three-foot stone base. A stadium complex is also planned.

“We were looking for a product that was sustainable, that had long-life and low maintenance” qualities, Conrad says, “and brick was not the right look for this campus.”

She describes the resulting look as “lodge-like,” adding that the feedback has been “great.” Conrad says that the client has even decided to renovate its original campus in Germantown, Tennessee, replacing the T-111 exterior with HardiePlank™ lap siding.

Competitive Pricing

Sonoma, California-based Richard Hancock Incorporated, a commercial framing company, also gives HardiePlank™ lap siding high marks. Project manager Dan Lamar estimates his company has used HardiePlank™ lap siding on four or five schools, as well as other commercial buildings.

“It’s pretty indestructible,” Lamar explains, adding that “it doesn’t expand or contract and it doesn’t twist or warp,” like wood, while achieving a similar look.

His company recently completed work on the Heritage High School in Brentwood, California, which incorporates HardiePlank™ lap siding. “It was originally a stucco project,” Lamar says, “but they changed it to Hardie” due to extremely competitive pricing.

Installing HardiePlank™ lap siding is “actually quite easy,” Lamar says, “it installs like wood and cuts like wood.” All in all, “it’s an ideal exterior solution,” compared to other finishes, he concludes. “We’ve done a lot of projects over the years with Hardie.”

In A Class By Itself

When you want to add “class” to your next school building project (or other commercial application), take a closer look at HardiePlank™ lap siding. It can stand up to some pretty tough customers—and offers a valuable lesson in making sustainable choices.

Class dismissed!