

# HERMITAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

**VSBN Winner of  
Best Institutional  
Project 2006**



*Size: 85,500 S.F.  
Budget: \$9,750,000  
Bid: \$9,047,000  
Completed: January 2005*

Hermitage Elementary School is a primary educational facility for Virginia Beach City Public Schools, designed to accommodate up to 750 K-5 grade children. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Green Building Rating System was used as a design guide and benchmarking tool throughout the design and construction process to create long lasting value for the school's owners and occupants. The project included the demolition of most of the existing school and the construction of a new facility. The design team attempted to minimize the environmental impact of the building by incorporating the existing gymnasium into the new facility and using the space for band, art, and special projects.

In order to provide a comfortable environment for the students, faculty, and staff, protecting and verifying the facility's indoor air quality (IAQ) was of utmost importance during construction. The health and well being of the children is also enhanced through careful material selection; permanent CO<sub>2</sub>, temperature, and humidity monitoring; and increased airflow, exceeding ASHRAE standards.

Other steps taken when incorporating LEED features into the school included:

- Locating the facility within ¼ mile of three public bus lines.
- Providing bicycle storage and changing rooms for staff.
- Featuring Energy Star® compliant, highly-reflective roof surfaces.
- Eliminating permanent irrigation on site.
- Reducing potable water consumption by over 30 percent.
- Employing waterless and low-flow plumbing fixtures.
- Designating space for storage and collection of recyclables.
- Installing cabinets made of wheatboard.
- Using low VOC paints.

