

# IPC Goes to School

IPC, a Midwest leader in precast commercial construction, is also recognized as a leader in precast school construction. School districts in the Midwest have taken advantage of the competitive pricing and time efficiencies provided by IPC's pre-fabricated concrete products, helping them to stay on schedule and on budget throughout construction.



Oak Park Elementary School, Des Moines, Iowa

"IPC is well known and respected in the Iowa building community as one of the best providers of pre-fabricated concrete products in the Midwest," said Duane Van Hemert, executive director of facility management for Des Moines Public Schools. "They provide a quality product at a very competitive price which has allowed the Des Moines Public Schools to maintain tight budgets and very demanding construction schedules."

IPC has constructed precast schools, additions, auditoriums, gymnasiums and mobile classrooms for some of the fastest growing school districts in the Midwest, including the Johnston, Waukee and Des Moines school districts in Iowa and the Tonganoxie School District in Tonganoxie, Kansas.



Summit Middle School, Johnston, Iowa

"Depending on the situation, precast can be an excellent alternative to the traditional block and brick used in most school construction," says Vitus Bering, architect, Vice President and CFO of SVPA Architects, Inc. of West Des Moines, Iowa. "When you factor in its cost effectiveness, ease of installation that improves construction schedules, especially through winter construction, and the expanding range of colors and textures that precast now offers, it's often the best choice for architects and owners to select precast." SVPA has designed a number of schools, gymnasiums and auditoriums using precast materials.

"There's no question that precast is a great alternative in school construction," says Dan Doran, manager, sales and marketing for IPC. "Precast not only provides aesthetic diversity, strength and durability, it also puts schools on a fast track in construction that can often prevent costly budget overruns."

Schools usually require large structural grid spacing for flexibility in layout and design. The use of precast pre-finished insulated sandwich-panels allow for maximum flexibility in the layout and design process.

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"Insulated sandwich panels provide both structural support and architectural aesthetic appeal," says Dirk McClure, regional sales manager for IPC and a Leed® Accredited Professional. "They give the contractor additional speed and economy in the construction."



Tonganoxie Auditorium, Tonganoxie, Kansas

IPC pre-finished insulated sandwich panels are being used in the construction of the new auditorium for the Tonganoxie high school addition. "This is the first structure in the Tonganoxie School District ever to use precast," said Kris Roberts, project manager for Turner Construction, prime contractor for the new auditorium.

Roberts went on to say how IPC precast has met the quality demands for the auditorium, and because of its ease of installation, has helped keep the project on time and on budget.

Dr. Richard Erickson, superintendent for the Tonganoxie School District echoes Roberts sentiments. "We are all very pleased with the progress of the new auditorium," said Erickson. "Without question, precast is one of the reasons we've be able to keep this important project within our budget guidelines."

In addition to ease of installation, flexibility, durability and cost efficiency, precast concrete is the ideal material for school construction because it is the ideal material for health, safety and protection of the environment; all imperative, when it comes to the health and safety of our children. After water, concrete is the most used material on earth. It is non-toxic, environmentally safe and composed of natural materials. Precast concrete products provide greater energy efficiency, reduce pollution and contribute to an overall healthier environment.

When it comes to school construction, precast concrete is becoming a viable option that more and more architects, contractors and school administrators are looking to as a means of providing a safe, secure, environmentally friendly structure that will have the strength, design and durability to last for years to come.

"I don't know why more school districts aren't using precast," Van Hemert further stated. "Once they do, they'll see what we've seen; a quality structure that is functional, cost efficient, aesthetically pleasing and environmentally friendly."

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For more information on IPC products, material and projects, call  
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## ABOUT IPC

Founded in 1956, IPC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cretex Corporation, a privately held company based in Elk River, Minnesota. Cretex employs approximately 2000 people in numerous locations across the Midwest, including Des Moines, Iowa with plants in Des Moines, Iowa Falls and Burlington, Iowa. IPC continually seeks innovative and economical solutions. Working with owners, architects, engineers, builders, contractors and developers, IPC creates products which lend distinctive quality to building solutions.

