Children are naturally attracted to cheerful colors and playful shapes. So, when specifiers working on the new Mayfield Elementary School in Cleveland, TN were asked to create an interior that would inspire the student body, they knew that the choice of floor colors and designs would be integral to the school’s design theme and an enhanced learning environment. They chose a broad selection of Standard EXCELON® Imperial® Texture colors to deliver optimum design and performance value from the hallways to the classrooms and beyond.

(Continued)
Mayfield Elementary is the newest school in the Cleveland City School System. Housing grades K through five with approximately 300 students, it is designed to provide a happy and productive experience for children, with all classes enjoying many opportunities for academic, social and personal growth. Community Tectonics Architects, located in Knoxville, saw in Mayfield an opportunity to apply current trends in color theory to create an interior that inspired all who would visit the school: students, staff, parents and the general community. Interior designer Erica Frafjord explains, “Using inspiring colors throughout the school is a way to enhance the human experience within the building. We wanted this school to be a stimulating environment that students would actually want to come to every day.” The decision to use bold color and design in some areas, and where to take a more subtle approach, is based on the function of each space. Frafjord says, “The corridors are very bright and exciting. Core areas including the art room, cafeteria and library use color to inspire creativity, encourage socialization and welcome students to a fun environment. The classrooms, by contrast, are more neutral to accommodate the different teaching styles of each grade.”

The conservative budget limited the type of floor products that could be used for this project, with VCT being chosen because of its affordability. But with all of the VCT options available, Frafjord explains her rationale for specifying Armstrong. “Armstrong had the best color range and visual impact. We looked at competitive products, but none could match Armstrong’s extensive color selection around which the school’s interior is designed.” In total, nine colors of Standard EXELON® Imperial® Texture are used in clever combinations to create the colorful floor motif: maraschino, bubblegum, cantaloupe, lemon yellow, little green apple, blue dreams, violet bloom, charcoal and brushed sand. Blocks of colors are located on the floors and walls, and each classroom has its own identity through the use of color. Frafjord says, “The art room is my favorite because we used every color we specified in a random layout. It looks like art on the floor.”

Armstrong™ Standard EXELON Imperial Texture is the industry leader in time-tested, cost-effective VCT performance. Over the years, new colors have been developed and introduced specifically for educational environments. The color palette appeals to elementary school age levels and coordinates...
with the entire portfolio of Armstrong™ flooring products. It also coordinates with other interior surfaces like lockers, desk laminates and paint. Frafjord agrees, saying, “Armstrong’s VCT colors were best suited for the color palette we chose for Mayfield. We selected the floor colors first, and then complemented them with the paint selection for the walls.”

Community Tectonics Architects has a relationship with the Cleveland City Schools that extends over 30 years. The continued partnership has resulted in a number of award-winning schools within the community. Beyond aesthetics, the new floor is meeting expectations for performance and maintenance. The school’s mission statement says, in part, “To promote life-long learning.” School management and specifiers at Community Tectonics see the Armstrong flooring as an inspirational element in helping carry out that goal.
The Mayfield Elementary School Challenge:
- Design and construct a new school that fulfills the mission to inspire life-long learning.
- Within a conservative budget, select flooring that delivers on looks and performance.
- Choose colors that coordinate with other elementary educational interior finishes.

The Armstrong Solution:
- Standard EXCELON® Imperial® Texture VCT has colors geared for enhancing the learning process.
- Imperial Texture is unequalled for providing cost-effective aesthetics and durability.
- Armstrong VCT features an extensive color selection that is color-integrated within the product line, across products and with other educational design elements.

Product Specs:
- A vast selection of 12 in. x 12 in., 1/8 in. and 3/32 in. thick, VCT.
- True through-pattern construction provides extended floor life, outperforming through-color only products.
- Low VOC-emissions—compliant to California Section 01350, FloorScore™ certified and can contribute to LEED® credits.

Visit armstrong.com/flooring, scroll to Selection Tools and click on School Zone™ to learn more about our wealth of products and services that help you create, construct and maintain inspiring learning environments.