



## CASE STUDY | EDUCATION

**Project:**

Hefner Middle School

**Location:**

Putnam City Schools  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**Designer / Architect:**

TAP Architecture

**Armstrong Flooring:**

Natural Creations  
with Diamond 10 Technology

**Featured skus:**

NA610, NA623, NA616



# Hefner Middle School, Home of the Vikings

## *A Playful Design Inspires School Pride and Gets an A+ for Durability*

When the school bell rings, Hefner Middle School students wade into the halls ready to voyage to their next class. Navigating through the open waters, they're prepped and ready to explore new ideas and tackle new challenges. And yet these seafaring students never get wet or dirty. The reason? The winding rivers are a playful tribute to their school mascot, a Viking, brought to life by a custom-designed floor.

Located in Putnam City School District in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Hefner Middle School is an 87,000-square-foot facility that houses more than 1,000 students. The upgraded interiors were designed by TAP Architecture, a firm located in Oklahoma City celebrating 30 years of business in 2018. TAP Architecture was challenged to revitalize the interior of the school, which hadn't been refreshed in five decades. Led by Project Manager, Chris Teehee and Interior Designer, Allison Fredrickson, the TAP team got to work breaking up their planned renovations into three phases to accommodate the school year calendar – summer 2016, winter break 2016 and finally summer 2017 – focusing on high traffic entryways, corridors and the cafeteria.

### THE DESIGN PROCESS

"Our primary goal was to reinvigorate the interior to help instill and sustain a sense of school pride. We wanted to incorporate the school colors and mascot in a fun, unique way to energize students as they walk through the hallways," said Fredrickson. The TAP team leveraged the history and heritage of the Vikings in their design by selecting Natural Creations Luxury Flooring (LVT) with Diamond 10 Technology, NA623 and NA610, to create a bright blue winding river through the corridors accented by clouds on the ceiling and wood paneling along the walls. "Each element of the design worked together to bring the theme to life. We were able to bring movement and continuity to the space – and the floor had such a huge impact," expressed Fredrickson. At first, the proposed design was met with concern by the school board. "The school was hesitant about our design because they weren't sure that staff, students and visitors would understand connection between the theme and the school's mascot. After some deliberation, they decided to trust our vision," said Fredrickson.



In addition to the rivers throughout the corridors and cafeteria, the TAP team also recommended adding the mascot to the floor utilizing a waterjet design pattern as a way to make a strong connection between the mascot and design theme. “Before we started renovations, the mascot was only incorporated in one place at the school’s main entrance. We were able to successfully install a waterjet design to the floor and the outcome was better than we could’ve imagined,” said Teehee. “It added such a striking element to the space.”

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF EASY MAINTENANCE & DURABILITY

While design was critical, performance and maintenance were equally important to the school’s Chief Operations Officer, Cecil Bowles. “Hefner Middle School hadn’t had any interior renovations for 50 years, so it was important to get the floor right,” said Bowles. “We needed an upgrade to give our school a fresh and inviting look and we wanted something different than traditional VCT. We invested \$1 million into this project, so the outcome had to exceed expectations – both visually and from a durability perspective.” The TAP team remembered seeing a demonstration of Natural Creations LVT with Diamond 10 Technology and thought it could be a perfect solution to address all areas of concern: durability, ease of maintenance and fresh, realistic visuals. “At first, I was concerned about durability. Natural Creations LVT doesn’t have the same high gloss finish as traditional VCT, so I wasn’t sure it could hold up to daily abuse from kids, tables, chairs and heavy foot traffic. However, more than a year later, the floor still looks great and is performing just like we were told it would.”

Fredrickson and Teehee recall visiting the school a month after installation. “We stopped by in the afternoon after the busy lunch period. It was great to see how easy cleanup was,” said Fredrickson. “The operations team swept and then used water and a squeegee to clean the floors. After they were finished it looked brand new,” added Teehee.

“We’re thrilled with the outcome, and more importantly, so is Hefner Middle School staff, students and the school board. They’re happy with the design and how well the floor has held up in high traffic areas. The school is even getting compliments from others in the district,” explained Teehee.

**For more information on Natural Creations LVT with Diamond 10 Technology, visit [www.armstrongflooring.com/commercial](http://www.armstrongflooring.com/commercial).**

#### *Natural Creations with Diamond 10 Technology*

- The most scratch, stain and scuff resistant luxury flooring in the industry
- Easy maintenance and installation – less cleaning time and disruption
- Ability to create unique designs and patterns through broad palette of coordinated colors
- 20-Year Limited Commercial Warranty

