

10/9/2021 New lighting brightens rooms, conserves energy, saves money

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It was an offer too good to refuse. With new lighting throughout the St. Agnes complex, the benefits of the new lighting will outweigh the costs after four or five years. The new LED lights are American-made and most are guaranteed to last 12 years. St. Agnes will be saving \$2,000 a month in its energy bill, according to business manager, Dave Grunwaldt.

“In addition, there will be maintenance savings of both time and money,” Grunwaldt said. “The lights are brighter which will help both students and staff. The entire complex will have a more vibrant environment.” This is a positive change for both classroom and office areas.

This all started a couple of months ago when Grunwaldt contacted Art Garcia, the regional manager of Titan LED, asking for a lighting assessment. Results showed that our lighting was very dated, and many of the classrooms, gym and common areas were well below industry standards for a school environment.

Grunwaldt and St. Agnes custodian John Karegeannes then visited three schools in Fond du Lac that had already gone through similar LED projects with Titan. They were both extremely impressed with the results they saw. This visit to the schools was one of the final factors in the decision-making process to move forward with the lighting project.

“St. Agnes will see a major lighting improvement and overall environment in their school once this project is completed,” Garcia said. “We are known for having the most efficient lighting with the longest warranty and brightest lumens per watt.”

One of the other reasons St. Agnes decided to go with Titan is because its Green Funding program allows St. Agnes the funds to use their savings on their energy bill/maintenance to pay for the lighting project without using their budget.

The improved brightness can be seen throughout the school, offices and meeting rooms. “The bulbs are high-quality LEDs with a long warranty and cost savings,” Ron Pittman said. He is a lighting and energy consultant from Titan Led Lighting Solutions and owner of Accord Electric, the installers.

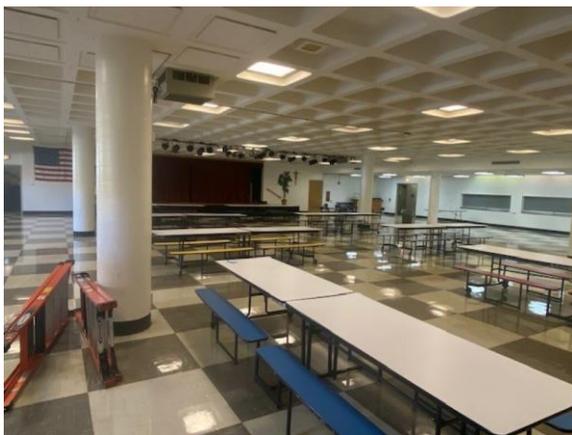
“With these new bulbs, the lighting in most areas of the St. Agnes property have doubled in efficacy,” Pittman said. Lighting can affect children’s circadian rhythms, he said. “That’s why students may sometimes fall asleep in the classroom,” Pittman said. Teachers should see positive changes with the new lighting. Studies show that students’ grade scores improve with adequate LED lighting, particularly in the areas of math and reading.



BEFORE TCU Hallway AFTER

Kemp Hall sees a lot of traffic and is the cafeteria for our students. Before the new lighting was installed, the floors and walls looked yellow and pink, depending on where you stood and the amount of light on a particular day. With the new lighting, the difference is startling, the walls are white and the floors are white. Go down there, turn on the lights and take a look.

BEFORE



AFTER



Hafford Hall has a similar "wow" factor

BEFORE



AFTER



"The parish should see a greater than 70 percent in savings on the lighting portion of their power bill," Pittman said. Most areas have doubled in efficacy (the ability of the light to hit the surface), he said.

"The lights in the locker room were really bad," physical education teacher Michelle Matthews said. "Some of the ballasts didn't even work. I'm excited about the new lighting." Classes weren't disrupted by the work being done, she said. The people doing the installation were very respectful and friendly. Classes continued as usual. We can't wait until we see the new Gym lighting.

Not all the fixtures have the same kind of bulbs. Their replacement depends on the location and needs. In church, for example, the fixtures are entirely different from the rest of the St. Agnes complex. The installation crew is still tweaking the lighting there. The bulbs there are completely different from the ones in the rest of the St. Agnes complex. Keep watching for changes as the church lighting keeps getting adjusted until we have it just right.

BEFORE

Gathering space

AFTER

