

Falks Laboratory Case Study



Engineered Excellence for Greener Classrooms

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Falks Laboratory Case Study:

Historic Elementary School gets updated and goes green with Change'Air Freshmen Series Air Handlers

1. Background

The Falk Laboratory School sits on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh. Founded in 1931, the school was a gift to the University of Pittsburgh from Leon Falk Jr. and his sister, Marjorie Falk Levy, in honor of their mother, Fanny Edel Falk. It is the only American laboratory school to have a legal charter that stipulates its purpose and function. The original charter designated the school as a progressive and experimental school for demonstration purposes. In 1946, the charter was amended to include practice teaching as one of the school's functions.

In 2009 the Falk Laboratory School underwent a \$21.1 million expansion and renovation project to address the increased demand on the school's aging facility.

The renovation project included a 39,000 sf addition to the existing 27,000 sf building and featured several green building components. The renovation would allow the school to increase the school's enrollment of 310 to 403 students by 2012.

The primary challenge of the renovation was in maintaining the architectural integrity of the historic building while furnishing it with the latest green technologies.

2. Project Details

One of the green components of the school's renovations included updating the HVAC system in the school and equipping most rooms with air-exchange systems that draw cool air into the building and push warm air out. This included installing 16 Change'Air Freshman Vertical Face and Bypass Air Handlers in each classroom.

A few specialty classrooms also received Change'Air Junior units with self contained DX cooling.

All the Change'Air ventilators units were tied together through a BACNet control system.

The challenges of renovating an historical building required Change'Air to provide close coordination with the installing mechanical contractor SSM Industries and the design engineer CJL Engineering, to ensure that the correct accessory components were supplied to allow for customized installation within the various applications. The design also called for a custom black powder coat paint finish.

4. Summary

Change'Air Product:	Freshman Vertical Face and Bypass Air Handlers Junior Unit with self contained DX cooling
School:	Falk Laboratory School on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh
Mechanical Contractor:	SSM Industries 3401 Grand Ave Pittsburgh, PA,
Design & Engineer:	CJL Engineering 1550 Coraopolis Heights Road Coraopolis, PA



CASE HIGHLIGHTS

Change'Air Freshman Series meets challenges of historic elementary school's architectural design and new green requirements.



CASE HIGHLIGHTS

The project required a range of accessory components to allow for customized installation within the various applications.