



# High on Sustainability

## Mequon-Thiensville School District Scores High on Sustainability Thanks to LED Troffer Retrofit and T8 Technology from Litetronics

Excelling in “academics, arts, athletics, and beyond,” the Mequon-Thiensville School District in Wisconsin offers a rigorous curriculum and consistently ranks as one of the top performing K-12 school systems in the nation. So it came as no surprise that school administrators also sought the utmost in quality, comfort, and energy efficiency for the district’s seven buildings, which include three elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, and a community center. In support of their facility goals, recent lighting upgrades involving LED Troffer Retrofit Kits and LED T8 Lamps from Litetronics have brought improved lighting quality, maintenance ease, and sustainability to the school system’s one million square feet of facility floor space while saving significant energy as well.

### Project overview

Owner	Mequon-Thiensville school district
Location	Mequon, Wisconsin
Description	K-12 School System
Project	Retrofit Lighting

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**Kyle Thompson**

Director of Facilities, Mequon-Thiensville School District, Wisconsin



“As a support service, our mission is to create an environment conducive to learning, which involves managing everything from a building’s temperature to its lighting,” shared Kyle Thompson, a former manager at a leading national energy service company and the current Director of Facilities for the district. Overall, “the look and feel of our lighting wasn’t uniform,” Thompson said of the non-standard configuration across the district’s largely 1950s-era buildings, which contained a mix of T8 and T12 fluorescent lamps as well as some incandescent technology. “Some areas were underlit while others were overlit and the lamps were different colors as well, which made for poor aesthetics that were also wasting energy.”

#### **A Dazzling Demonstration**

In early 2015, Thompson saw demonstrations of LED Troffer Retrofit Kits and LED T8 replacement lamps from Litetronics, a Harvey, IL-based manufacturer of cutting-edge, energy-saving lighting technology for nearly half a century, and “I was blown away by the quality of the light, the amount of light they put out, their ease of installation, and how cost-effective the Litetronics products were for our

application,” said Thompson, who immediately began upgrading high-priority areas with Litetronics’ technology.

In school hallways and areas with dropped ceilings, Thompson selected Litetronics’ Troffer Retrofit Kit, a unique and industry-leading 85,000-hour retrofit solution that upgrades a standard fluorescent troffer to powerful, long-lasting, and highly-efficient LED technology in as little as three minutes. Installed quickly and easily by his in-house team of 14 custodians and grounds crew members, “Litetronics’ under three-minute installation claim is real,” confirmed Thompson.

In the athletics Field House – where lights are on for nearly 18 hours a day, seven days a week – Thompson opted for Litetronics’ Plug & Play LED T8 lamps, which fit directly into existing linear fluorescent fixtures, deliver long 50,000-hour life, provide outstanding coverage based on their 330° beam angle, and drive energy savings of up to 50%. “We’re enjoying a 2.8-year payback on the energy savings alone, not to mention the maintenance savings, in addition to securing better and more consistent light because the LEDs don’t lose light output over time,” he added.

#### **A Successful Solution**

Committed to “spending our capital budget dollars like they’re my own,” shared Thompson, “I love the look of our new lighting; it’s spectacular and our faculty and administrators are equally delighted with the way the space looks and how well the LEDs are performing. The innovation, quality, and service that Litetronics has brought to the market is tremendous and we can’t wait to complete other upgrades throughout our buildings,” he said. “I’d upgrade every light tomorrow if we could.”

Poised to continue upgrading their entire space over time, Thompson is excited for the promise that LEDs hold for his school district – and others. “The time has come for every school to consider LED upgrades – the quality of the technology is high, its price points are down, and its value proposition can’t be disputed,” he concluded. “The lighting upgrades we’ve done with Litetronics products have been such a success that my staff keeps asking me when we’re getting more.”

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