

Sonex Valueline Baffles Solve School Gymnasium Noise Problems

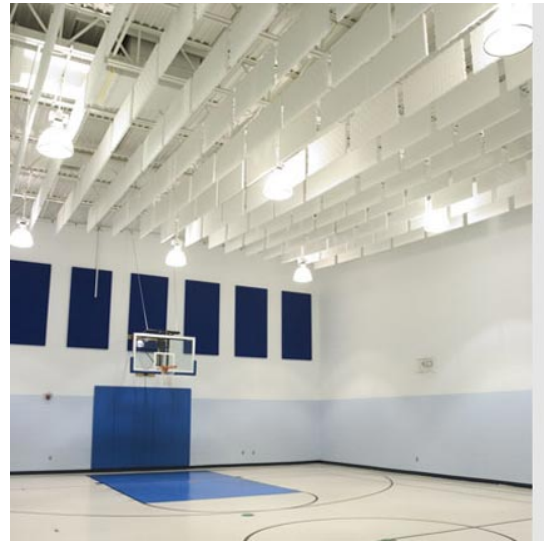
It's a wonder physical education teachers can hear at all. They conduct their classes in cavernous gymnasiums that generally have poor acoustics and have to shout just to be heard over active children. Michigan's Van Buren Public School District decided to remedy that situation in five elementary schools. The district had SONEX Valueline Baffles from illbruck Architectural Products installed to absorb excess noise and make life a little easier for physical education teachers, students and parents alike.

"When these schools — Edgemont Elementary School, Elwell Elementary School, Savage Elementary School and Tyler Elementary School (Belleville, Mich.), and Rawsonville Elementary School (Ypsilanti, Mich.) — were built, acoustical issues in construction typically weren't considered," says Pete Foster, plant manager for the Van Buren Public School District. "Our physical education teachers were concerned that the sound in the gymnasiums, reverberating off the hard floors and concrete block walls, was creating a level of noise that was harmful to their hearing."

"The reduction in noise levels after we had SONEX Valueline Baffles installed is amazing," says Foster. "Everyone is pleased, especially the teachers who spend their days in the gymnasiums. The cable system installation went quickly, and we were able to get students back in our gyms with little downtime." Prior to installation of the baffles, testing with an audio spectrum analyzer determined the average reverberation time, or the time it took for a sound to dissipate, in the gymnasiums to be twice the industry standard.

"SONE Valueline Baffles helped reduce the reverberation time from an average of 4.0 seconds to an average of 1.0 second," says Dick Conroy, a methods and materials engineer with Memtech, Inc., distributor of the SONEX product to the Van Buren Public School District. "Now, the gymnasiums have

much less echo from unabsorbed sound bouncing off hard surfaces, and the acoustical solution doesn't interfere with school's goings-on. The baffles hang high from the ceiling and are up and out of the way and complementary to the gymnasiums' look."



A crew of five from Boyce Construction, in Michigan, installed a total of 1,080 baffles in the five gymnasiums in four days. "The installation was during the summer, before school started, so we didn't have any downtime," says Foster. "We were pleasantly surprised at how fast installation was."

SONEX Valueline Baffles are available in natural white and standard colors, and can be custom painted to complement any design or match existing colors. The baffles are suspended from the ceiling — above or below lights — with illbruck's easy-to-install cable system.

SONEX Baffles are made from Class 1 fire-rated willtec® foam and meet ASTM E-84 requirements for flame spread and smoke density. SONEX Baffles resist moisture, humidity, fungus and microbial growth.