



**PRESS RELEASE
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**CHARTWELL SCHOOL TACKLES LANGUAGE CHALLENGES
WITH AMERICA'S GREENEST CAMPUS**

Highest green building rating demonstrates commitment to healthy learning environment.

Seaside, Calif. – The students at Chartwell School are excited to announce that their school has become the first complete educational campus to be awarded LEED® Platinum, the highest sustainability rating by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED is the USGBC's widely recognized system for designing and constructing the world's greenest, most energy efficient, and highest performing buildings. According to National Research Council, the quality of indoor environments can affect the health and development of children and adults. Schools such as Chartwell are embracing green building as a logical extension of their educational mission.

“Educators around the country are taking a leadership role in using green building to provide the best possible learning environments for our children,” said Douglas Atkins, Chartwell's Executive Director. “What began as a quest to give Chartwell students a campus to overcome language learning challenges has progressed into a working model that demonstrates to all schools that they can provide a healthy and environmentally responsible learning environment within a conventional school construction budget,” said Atkins.

Several studies have been conducted on green building and its effects on student and worker performance and productivity. One study conducted by Herschong Mahone Group for the California Energy Commission found a compelling statistical correlation between the amount of day lighting in elementary school classrooms and the performance of students on standardized math and reading tests. Green school design is also cost effective according to a 2006 report prepared by consulting firm Capital E. The study found that while the average cost of going green is about \$3 more per ft², the average return on investment in terms of higher academic outcomes, lowered absenteeism, and reduced operating costs is about \$70 per ft², more than 20 times as high as the cost of going green.

Chartwell School, along with EHDD Architecture and general contractor Ausonio, Inc., achieved the high green building rating by focusing on energy use, lighting, water and material use as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies. Some of these features included:

- Daylighting/lighting controls – incorporates natural light to save electricity, reduce HVAC equipment, and contribute to an enhanced learning environment.
- 32kW photovoltaic system – generates onsite electricity that cuts electric bills by more than half, and avoids 54,000 lbs of CO₂ annually.

(more)

- Water saving features – reduces campus water use by 60% by using waterless urinals, dual flush toilets, and an 8,700 gallon rainwater cistern.
- Sustainable framing design – Twenty-four inch (rather than 16”) framing reduced wood use by 30%, and the majority of the wood purchased was certified for sustainability by the Forest Stewardship Council.
- Construction waste diversion – Eighty-two percent of construction waste was diverted from landfills and recycled.
- Waste reutilization – inclusion of slag (iron-ore byproduct) improved concrete quality while reducing CO2 emissions.
- Improved indoor air quality - selection of paints, finishes, and furnishings with no VOC content reduced likelihood of irritating or toxic fumes that can trigger allergies or other negative health effects. Indoor CO2 monitors adjust ventilation rates.
- Designed for disassembly – partnered with Environmental Protection Agency to incorporate features enabling cost-effective disassembly for classroom relocation or campus enlargement.

“Chartwell School is to be congratulated for achieving LEED Platinum Certification, and student well-being will benefit from the fresh air and natural day light,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO, Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council.

CHARTWELL SCHOOL

Forty percent of all children will find learning to read the hardest academic task during their school experience. Half of these challenged readers have an innate learning difference that cuts across gender lines and often runs in families. There are ways to overcome the effects of such challenges as dyslexia. This is crucial since educational success or failure often determines the outcome of the rest of a child’s life. Since 1983, Chartwell School has been dedicated to reversing patterns of failure by providing children through grade eight with the independent learning skills and confidence necessary to succeed and return to mainstream education, while appreciating life-long learning as productive, engaged citizens. Leadership gifts that helped to make Chartwell’s new campus possible were provided by The Kresge Foundation, the Catherine L. and Robert O. McMahan Foundation and an anonymous donor.