

Cato Meridian Schools

Amano Pioneer Eclipse Delivers Innovative Solution to Old and New Problems for Cato Meridian Schools.

In this era of ever tightening budgets, school districts and other government entities must meet the challenge of delivering high quality outcomes with limited resources. In addition the recent rise in demand for environmentally sustainable solutions has added new layers of complexity – and sometimes cost – to traditional tasks.

The Challenges

At the Cato Meridian County School System in Cato, New York, the need for cost-effective environmentally friendly floor care solutions combined with an old problem to put Maintenance Supervisor Craig Bullard between a rock and a hard place. “our high school was built back in the middle of the 20th Century,” says Bullard. “At that time, it was very common to install terrazzo floors in public buildings. This is a wonderful flooring material. It’s stone, so it’s exceptionally durable. And when it’s properly maintained, it’s beautiful.”



The tradition method of caring for terrazzo floors was to use an onyx sealer, which is an oil-based product. This practice created two problems. The first was built-up. Over time, the floor absorbs the sealer, which detracts from the natural beauty of the stone. On addition, being oil-based product, the sealer is not environmentally friendly. Plus, the chemicals used to strip it off create additional environmental hazards. Bullard needed a new solution, one that would deliver a high-gloss, wet-look finish and meet today’s sustainability standards, without costing the school district a lot of money and man hours.

The Solution

“We talked to every floor care supplier we could find,” Bullard continues, “and just about everyone offered the same solution – a multiple application stripping process that would simply take too long and cost too much. Then, our Amano Pioneer Eclipse rep, Sal Taranto, found the right answer. Using the Pioneer Eclipse 30” Barracuda propane-powered stripping machine and their 396HD degreaser, we were able to remove the old onyx sealer quickly and cost effectively. Then, we brought the floor back to life with the 24” Mean Machine Burnisher, applying two coats of Eclipse Hard Floor Sealer and Eclipse Hard Floor Finish.

The Result

"The initial result just blew everybody away. When one of our administrators first saw it, he said, 'I've wanted these floors to look like this from day one and now I have it.' Going forward, I expect to be able to maintain this great look by scrubbing nightly with the Eclipse Neutral Cleaner at 1 oz. per gallon, burnishing once a week with their Rebound floor restorer in the 24" Mean Machine, and performing an annual re-wax cycle during the summer months.

"We're so pleased with the performance of Amano Pioneer Eclipse that we've started using their products on the asphalt tile floors in our classrooms," concludes Bullard, "and we're also working to bring in some more of their burnishers. If anybody wants to use us as a reference, I'll be happy to show them the results."

