



# Marce Herz Middle School

Reno, NV

## Reno's Marce Herz Middle School Benefits from Winco's Transira™ Window Solutions

### The Project

The new Marce Herz Middle School campus in the Arrowcreek community in Reno, Nevada, was completed in time to open for the new school year beginning in August. The school is named in honor of Marcelle "Marce" Barkley Herz (1911-1964), an elementary school teacher in the region for more than ten years, as well as a world-class skier and runner who founded the Sky Tavern Junior Ski Program, the oldest and largest non-profit ski and snowboard program/facility in the United States.

The 190,000 square-foot campus was built for 1,400 students to relieve overcrowding at elementary and middle schools in south Reno. The campus includes multiple structures, ample parking, and play fields. The buildings are state-of-the-art, equipping classrooms and common areas with technology and conveniences to ensure a safe, yet welcoming learning environment.

### PROJECT DETAILS

#### Systems Provided

**Product:**  
Transira™ Retrofit

**Market:**  
Education - K-12

#### Project Team

**Owner**  
Washoe County School District, Reno, NV

**Architect**  
Van Woert Bigotti, Reno, NV

**Glazing Contractor**  
Clark and Sullivan Construction, Sparks, NV

**Winco Representative**  
Gantt Miller IV

**Photography by**  
Vance Fox Photography





## The Project (Cont.)

Among the school's special features is Transira™ Window Solutions, a new energy-saving, security-ensuring window from WINCO Window Company. Transira™ Windows feature two technologies in one product: A motorized roller shade preinstalled between thermal glass window panes and controlled by keypads or automation systems. This latest energy-saving technology streamlines the installation process, slashes energy bills, and ensures security with the touch of a button. With its enclosed shades, Transira™ Windows provides another, more timely benefit ideal for highly populated buildings such as schools: an easy-to-maintain healthier environment.

"Because of the pandemic, we have had to look at our surroundings with fresh eyes to determine how to cut clutter and make surfaces easy to clean, removing the possibility of spreading germs," says Gantt Miller, LEED AP and part of the Transira development team at WINCO. "Transira™ Prime Window Solutions can provide building owners and occupants with peace of mind."

## The Challenge

During the design phase of the Marce Herz Middle School, the Washoe County School District wanted a window that was not on the market: a window that would provide multiple solutions such as better control of daylighting, energy efficiency, low maintenance, and include security features to meet safety protocols required of schools. The Washoe County School District wanted windows that would provide visual security for teachers and students in the classroom in the event of a lockdown or "code red" situation.



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## The Solution

WINCO Window Company had an energy efficient, smart window solution already in the works. During development, WINCO was able to make a window that encapsulates an automated shade system between two panes of glass and integrates with Building Management Services (BMS).

For the Washoe County School District, the design intent for this window focuses on security with the automated shades connecting to the school's security system. When the school's security system is tripped during a code red situation, the entire building's shades, including exterior windows and interior windows of classrooms, all go down at once. The lockout system overrides the individual classrooms' controls. Since the shades are an integral component to the Transira™ Windows by being between two panes of glass, nothing obstructs the shades going down and the shades cannot go up until there is an administrative "all clear."

During the development process, it was quickly discovered that this product is extremely desirable for multiple other facets, including massively reduced heating and cooling loads through environmental-based automation or BMS integration; a large boost in occupant comfort through daylight harvesting; and reduced temperature swings. Considering the shade is inaccessible between two pieces of glass, there's no risk of the shade being damaged.

Another advantage of the design having the shades built in between two panes of glass is that it neutralizes the possibility of fabric drapery or blinds as a source of contamination while simultaneously reducing operating costs, harnessing daylighting, and dramatically streamlining and sanitizing the user interface for a room's lighting and privacy.



## WINCO's Transira Windows are a Smart Solution for Schools

Provides Visual Security

Energy Savings

Eliminate Maintenance







## The Installation Process

WINCO designed Transira™ Window Solutions to cover the entire window market: Transira™ Prime for new construction; Transira™ Accessory Sash for retrofits.

Transira™ Prime is very cost-effective since it is both fenestration and window coverings, and that eliminates the need of a subcontractor for the window coverings. With less players involved and a quicker installation, Transira™ reduces loads on construction schedules by helping everything come together more easily.

The installation process for the Transira™ Retrofit is also simple and quick. The unit simply plugs directly over the front of the existing window (storefront, curtain wall, etc.) and gets fastened directly to the frame through the integrated wire chase. After the unit is installed, the wire gets fished through and connected to the control panel. It's so quick to do that two people could install these retrofits in less than five minutes, which is less time than it takes to install an actual shade.



## The Feedback

The Transira™ Window Solutions were first used by the Washoe County School District in another of their newly built schools, Nick Poulakidas Elementary School, as a way to visually secure learning spaces in the event of an intruder on campus.

“The feedback that we’ve gotten from teachers and school district personnel has been overwhelmingly positive,” says Miller. “Since adding healthy daylight is as simple as pressing a button next to the light switch, they’ve found that rather than relying on artificial lighting, classrooms and student activities are more frequently illuminated by a warm glow of natural light.”

Building the shade into the window not only protects it from contamination but also from inadvertent damage from daily use. Shades, blinds, draperies, and window coverings are one of the largest single maintenance expenditures for facility managers. By putting the shade within the window, it is protected from handling while being controlled seamlessly with a wall keypad or BMS integration — convenient, efficient, and cost-effective.

Teachers like that they can control two separate areas independently. For example, teachers can allow more natural lighting on one side of the room where their library is located, but not drown out the other students’ computer screens with glare on the other side of the classroom.

The school’s maintenance crew has also expressed their approval of the windows. Now they can put the entire building’s shades down at the end of the day with the push of a button instead of having to go room to room and manually close every shade.

Misty Smith, Site Facility Coordinator at Washoe County Schools, sums it up best.

“We are so excited to have the Transira windows installed at Marce Herz Middle School. The blinds have worked wonderfully, and I can’t say enough about the exceptional customer service that Winco has provided. Thank you!”

