

# Willow Canyon Elementary Education

Case Study



## CLIENT

Willow Canyon Elementary School

## CHALLENGE

Integrate energy-efficient natural daylighting in dark, interior classrooms.

## RESULTS

Daylighting incorporated throughout the classrooms; minimal artificial lighting needed during the day.

## PRODUCT

Solatube SolaMaster Series 750DS-C units (with Daylight Dimmers)

## SOLATUBE INSTALLER

Alder's Sales Corporation

## ARCHITECT

Curtis Miner Architecture

**BACKGROUND:** Canyons District's Willow Canyon Elementary School is located in Sandy, Utah. Motivated by research showing how natural light is critical for the productivity and well-being of students, faculty and staff, the Canyons Board of Education proposed a tax-rate-neutral bond that, among other things, would be used to add natural daylight to multiple elementary schools in all corners of the District, including Willow Canyon Elementary.

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"I've also noticed that students who have sensory issues seem to be calmer if they can work in a room with natural lighting."

*-Tana Allred, academic coach*

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**CHALLENGE:** After adding daylight to their first school, the District quickly learned that not all tubular daylighting devices are created equal. The first product used did not live up to the District's expectations for light quality and performance.



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**SOLUTION:** Not wanting to make the same mistake, the design team decided it was time to turn to the leaders in the industry, Solatube International.

“We went into Willow Canyon Elementary and this time added the Solatube Daylighting Systems and it made all the difference in the world,” said Rick Conger, Canyons School District director of facilities services.

**RESULTS:** As they finished Willow Canyon Elementary and the next school, they found that the teachers liked the product better, the students did better under the Solatube units and overall, the product quality and performance was better.

“Teaching in a classroom that now has this natural daylight from the Solatube Daylighting Systems makes a big difference in the kids’ behavior and even my behavior,” said LaRonda Blanchat, third grade teacher. “Before the units, we were teaching in an internal classroom with no windows, leaving us feeling closed in and disconnected from the outside world.”

“It was dark and there was absolutely no natural lighting before the Solatube Daylighting Systems,” said Tana Allred, academic coach. “I’ve also noticed that students who have sensory issues seem to be calmer if they can work in a room with natural lighting.”

After seeing the value of the Solatube Daylighting Systems in Willow Canyon Elementary, the Canyons Board of Education hopes to daylight all 18 of their elementary schools in the District.

“It’s a great opportunity to really improve the moral of the students, teacher and staff,” added Conger. “If it gives teachers a better opportunity to teach and the students can be more receptive to learning, it’s a great deal and we in our District feel it’s very important.”

Students, faculty and staff at Willow Canyon Elementary now have a vibrant, state-of-the-art facility where they enjoy natural, evenly distributed daylight provided by the Solatube units and the Canyons School District continues to address and improve the needs of their elementary schools.

Get design help or information for your next project. Visit <http://www.solatube.com/commercial> or call 1-888-SOLATUBE.

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