

CONTACT: Marilyn Shank 317-293-5590 or
Katie Corson 317-263-6226

**CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL IS FIRST IN INDIANA TO BE CERTIFIED UNDER
NEW ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS**

VINCENNES, IND., MARCH 31, 2011 – Clark Middle School is the first school in Indiana to be certified under the LEED for Schools 2.0 rating system. LEED (an acronym for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a rating system established by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) that promotes the design and construction of buildings that are economically, socially and environmentally responsible places to learn and work.

Clark Middle School achieved 37 points on the LEED rating scale, which qualifies it for Silver certification. According to the LEED project directory, this is the first school in the state of Indiana to be certified under the new LEED for Schools rating system.

The most notable difference between LEED for other newly constructed buildings and LEED for Schools is having standards for acoustics to create quiet core learning spaces.

In addition to recognition for acoustical design, Clark Middle School earned LEED points for water use reduction, indoor air quality, mold prevention, optimizing energy performance, recycling, using construction materials with recycled content, using local materials, lighting and thermal system controls, an environmental site assessment, maximizing open space and innovation in design.

Schmidt Associates is the architect for the new Clark Middle School, which opened in 2010. In addition to being an environmentally responsible and energy efficient school, the school's design honors the history of Vincennes, which was the first Indiana stop for Lewis and Clark.

Clark Middle School is part of the Vincennes Community School Corporation.

Schmidt Associates is an award-winning Indianapolis-based planning, architecture and engineering design firm.

(30)

EDITORS NOTE: Additional information about LEED and the U.S. Green Building Council are available at www.usgbc.org. Photos of Clark Middle School are available on request.