



**Application:**

Public School System

**Location:**

Kent Intermediate  
School District;  
Grand Rapids, MI

**Products:**

SL-17 FRP Door

**Special-Lite Customer:**

S.A. Morman & Co.

**Special-Lite Sales  
Representative:**

The Eisen Group

## Paintballs? No Problem — Kent ISD Proves Special-Lite Doors Survive Under Worst Conditions

As administrators at schools across the nation have discovered, the paint ball gun is rapidly replacing the spray can as the tool of choice for vandals. Less of a creative expression than standard graffiti, paintball vandalism can be done in less time and from a further distance. And while it would seem that the damage would be easier to clean than standard graffiti, that isn't always the case.

Unlike spray paint, paintball paint is designed to be washable, but the dye can easily stain walls, roofs and doors if not removed quickly. The gelatin coating which contains the paint can congeal under certain conditions, requiring it to be scraped off, rather than washed. Perhaps most importantly, the capsules strike at high velocity, creating dents that can last long after the paint has washed away.

At Kent Intermediate School District in suburban Grand Rapids, Michigan, vandalism is a relatively rare occurrence, but its few instances have proven the difference between the Special-Lite® Fiberglass Reinforced Polyester Door and a hollow metal door. This was

especially true for the paintball attack. While the Special-Lite Doors wiped clean with standard cleaning products, the metal doors “never looked the same.”

“To get the door back to the standard, we have to paint the metal door,” said Kent ISD Custodial Supervisor Jeff Miller. “The Special-Lite Door wiped clean.”

The Speclite3® FRP face sheet used on the Special-Lite FRP Door is resistant to bumps or scratches, with through-molded colors that hide any damage that could occur. Paint and graffiti wipe off with standard graffiti cleaners. The door is engineered to withstand the impact of a 2-by-4 inch piece of lumber flying at 35 miles per hour, consistent with hurricane conditions...it would take a very imaginative and committed vandal to satisfiyingly damage a Special-Lite FRP Door.

## A Worthwhile Investment

For several years, Kent ISD has been slowly replacing failing or near failing metal doors with Special-Lite’s SL-17 FRP Door. Common problems that had occurred with the existing painted steel doors included rusting out at the bottom, not reliably opening, and not functioning as a consistent means of egress due to thermal expansion between the jamb and door. The SL-17 FRP Door is designed specifically to resist these types of issues. Unlike metal or wood doors, a Special-Lite FRP door will never rust, crack, split, peel, or rot.

Most replacements have to date been single-man exit doors in classrooms and vocational labs. The district now has Special-Lite FRP Doors hung in approximately 40 percent of its exterior entrances across four buildings. Miller said that the district intends to replace five to six more doors each year.

“It’s a substantial cash outlay for us to budget five or six doors per year, but when you look back it doesn’t bother you,” Miller said. “We don’t have any of the issues with doors that we used to. It’s one less thing we have to deal with.”

At Kent ISD, reducing door maintenance requirements has delivered real savings: The district does not have the expertise within its custodial staff to make significant mechanical repairs to a door. All such maintenance needs are contracted to S.A. Morman & Co., a West Michigan supplier of architectural hardware and building products, including Special-Lite Doors.



Our FRP Doors are durable and low maintenance



Hollow metal doors require constant maintenance



For more information or to locate the Special-Lite representative for your area, visit [www.special-lite.com](http://www.special-lite.com).

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