

CASE STUDY

# MORROW HIGH SCHOOL ELLENWOOD, GEORGIA





## SHAPING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

Situated in Atlanta's south metro area, Morrow High School stands as the largest and most innovative high school in the county's history. Catering to over 2,200 students, the newly constructed educational facility underwent a comprehensive rebuild that reveals a functional, contemporary campus. The 350,000-square-foot school features a wide range of Kawneer architectural aluminum systems that help meet safety requirements while connecting students to nature and one another.

The distinctive S-shape of the redesigned high school building emphasizes practicality while blending seamlessly with its surroundings, mimicking the curved ridge of the South Metro Atlanta area's wetland topography. The building offers unparalleled views of the outdoors, bringing daylight into the building while enhancing the learning experience and well-being of students and faculty. Further, the school's towering cantilevers help shield students from extreme weather conditions while providing occupants with an uninterrupted connection to nature year-round.

**Architect:** Perkins&Will, Atlanta, GA  
**General Contractor:** MEJA Construction, Peachtree City, GA  
**Glazing Contractor:** Architectural Glazing Systems, Inc., Griffin, GA

Photography: © Jonathan Hillyer



## INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION AT MORROW HIGH SCHOOL

Designed by Perkins&Will architecture firm, the high school's modern and functional design provides students and teachers the ideal setting for the next generation to learn, develop and be inspired. The building delivers unobstructed views of the outdoors and optimizes natural light, promoting student well-being and productivity.

The school's S-shaped building provides an ideal north-south orientation for classrooms and creating protected outdoor spaces for communal activities and physical education. The curved configuration challenges traditional design, while increasing visibility and security for the staff and students.

Before its completion, Morrow High School was awarded the Phil Freelon Professional Design Award in the "Unbuilt" category at the NOMA 2020 Conference. After completion, the school received the highest recognition at the AIA Georgia Design and Honor Awards, obtaining the AIA Georgia 2023 Excellence Award from a panel of national architects.

Kawneer's solutions help ensure lasting performance, improving the building's longevity and efficiency. Designed for performance and unmatched protection, Kawneer's 1600 Wall System®1 Curtain Wall, Trifab® VersaGlaze® 601 Framing System, Trifab® VersaGlaze® 601T Framing System and Trifab® VersaGlaze® 451T Framing System help provide comfort and well-being for students and faculty.





## CHALLENGES

- The main goal of the project was to replace an aging, disjointed high school with a facility fit to meet today's educational facility needs while providing for a growing student population.
- Creating a learning environment that maximizes natural daylight and offers uninterrupted views of the outdoors was fundamental for influencing the mood, productivity and academic performance of students and teachers.

## SOLUTIONS

- Kawneer's systems helped provided unmatched design flexibility, enabling the state-of-the-art educational facility to implement a modern, unique S-shape design.
- Kawneer's 1600 Wall System®1 Curtain Wall enabled an innovative design with uninterrupted views while increasing the amount of natural daylight entering classrooms, creating an ideal learning environment for students and staff.
- Trifab® VersaGlaze® 451T and 601T Framing Systems provide superior thermal performance, enabling the high school to reduce operating costs while providing an ideal learning environment.

## PRODUCTS USED

- 1600 Wall System®1 Curtain Wall
- Trifab® VersaGlaze® 601 Framing System
- Trifab® VersaGlaze® 601T Framing System
- Trifab® VersaGlaze® 451T Framing System