

**SPECTRUM
COMMUNITY
SCHOOL**



Spectrum Community School

Located in Greater Victoria School District #61, Spectrum Community School is a comprehensive secondary school for grades 9-12. It has a student population of approximately 1,300 students who benefit from a wide range of clubs and programs, in addition to their extensive course offerings.

The Challenge

Being such a dynamic school, communication of events and activities with the student body and community is important. For several years, Spectrum School had a large marquis message sign at the front of the school that was used to announce these events. Unfortunately this was an “old technology” sign that required a ladder and physically changing letters on the sign. This was no easy task, requiring one person to hold the ladder while the other person climbed it to change the message. In addition, a 70 lb. box of letters had to be carried out and back each time.

This was not a task that could be safely done in the rain or during high winds. The final straw was when the ladder blew over on top of one of the staff as they were setting it up to change the letters.

The Solution

Several options were considered, including replacing the entire sign structure with an electronic LED sign. Using a wireless remote to easily change the message from the ground would completely eliminate the injury risk associated with a ladder, as well as the need for carrying a heavy box of letters. Unfortunately, the initial two or three options the school administration looked at were in the \$30,000 price range, well above their budget.

Enter Signs of the Times, who have been working with School District 61 regularly on other sign projects up to that point. They suggested that the existing sign structure could be kept in place and retrofitted with electronic LED components. The price for this solution was going to be approximately half what the other estimates were.

Sharoyne Gaipman, Vice Principal of Spectrum School, states, “We were comfortable working with Signs of the Times’ on this project. Their reputation was solid given that they had already done quite a bit of work for the District.”



The Result

Funding that matched their revised estimate was available as a result of a grad gift from the 2013 graduating class, so Signs of the Times was asked to proceed. Installation went smoothly and, other than a learning curve with the technology, the new LED sign is working beautifully and looks great.

According to Vice Principal Gaipman, “We are now able to keep the sign’s message current regardless of the weather conditions, and it is now a safe one person job.”