



Seating Solved

HOW INTERKAL HELPED A COLORADO SCHOOL REMAKE ITS ARENA—AND WHAT THEY CAN DO FOR YOURS

BY ANNIE THELEN

South of Denver and nestled in the heart of Colorado is where you can find Fountain-Fort Carson High School, District 8. It's the home of the Trojans of Fountain-Fort Carson (FFC for short) and inside is where you can find the Trojan Arena, the school's massive gymnasium arena capable of seating over 4,000 spectators. This gym holds countless events for the school and community, and when it started to show wear and tear, the team at FFCHS knew it was time to revitalize the space.

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The arena needed an upgrade, specifically the retractable bleachers. They wanted an innovative solution for their seating—something eye-catching, durable, and comfortable for every spectator—and turned to Interkal as their seating partner. Interkal is an industry leader in fixed and retractable seating products and more, with installations completed all over the globe, including K-12, colleges and universities, and professional and private venues.

There were a few issues the school faced when building an arena that would work for both spectators and staff, starting with the large upper balconies. While they were perfect for the Trojan Arena's busier events, during smaller events it would gather debris and keep spectators spaced apart, causing the venue to feel empty. Meanwhile, no matter what the size of the crowd, the team at FFC saw that when the balcony was available, people would sit there, even if there was plenty of open space down below. While these problems might not seem like they could cause much trouble, they can greatly affect the mood of the entire arena during games and other events. If spectators are far away from each other, it

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keeps the energy of the crowd down, which could lead to athletes feeling disconnected. Plus, more labor would be spent cleaning up after the event, since there were more seating areas that needed to be cleared.

Interkal found a solution. Instead of leaving the upper seating on the balcony exposed during smaller events, the Trojan Arena could install branded vinyl curtains to keep them covered when not in use, eliminating the extra labor required for an area that would only be used for a few patrons. But for big events, the vinyl curtains easily come down to free up plenty of room for massive crowds to flood the arena. It's a win-win solution.

The vinyl curtains are not only easy to use, but they save both time and energy for the school. Instead of workers needing to clean debris from the balconies each time, the vinyl curtains provide an effective cover, so the area remains clear of dust. Visitors can't sit down where the curtains cover the seats, so the

crowd is more centralized. This helps boost the energy of the arena, leading to louder cheers to energize the players.

With the innovative vinyl curtains, stylishly decorated with the school logo and mascot, even the smallest events still feel lively. It brings people together, which is at the core of everything that Interkal does.

The rest of Trojan Arena is just as packed with the school's colors, with the Excel Seat Modules outfitting the arena in red, white, and royal blue. Not only do they also spell out FCC but have an American flag designed on them as well, honoring the rich JROTC and military history of the school. The colors come together to create a stunning look for the entire stadium.

With the vinyl curtains solving the spacing issues and the beautiful school colors complementing the space, the school and Interkal were able to create a safe, durable, and spectacular arena sure to get Trojan fans even

more excited about the next game.

Interkal does more than just install seating. They are your partner in creating seating solutions that will bring communities together for decades, allowing audience members to kick back and relax. Not only do they deliver the seating you need but also create innovative solutions to help your facility reach new heights. So, take a seat, rest comfortably, and enjoy the show. Or if you're at the Trojan Arena, enjoy the game.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Annie Thelen is the current Marketing Specialist for Kotobuki Seating International and Interkal, where she helps build brand identity and narrative for all companies under the Kotobuki umbrella. See Interkal.com or Kotobuki-seating.co.jp/en/.



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