



SHUTTERS for Lockdowns & Drills

By Veronica Murillo, Shelter Shutters

At the request of a New Jersey school principal, a unique product was developed. A New Jersey window shop owner invented a way to quickly and completely cover and uncover school door windows before and after school lockdown drills. This unique design solves major challenges educators face during lockdown drills, and its built into one effective product.

"Dr. Ryan confided in me about a seminar she attended on active shooters. When she described the scenario her teachers and students would be drilling for, it was obvious to me that this would be an important request," explains Belmar Window Shop owner and Shelter Shutters™ creator Steve Beaudoin.

Eight years ago, Ocean Township Elementary Principal, Dr. Doreen Ryan, asked Beaudoin to supply something that would quickly and completely block out views into her school's gymnasium during lockdown drills. The product also needed to promptly snap back into place immediately following the drill. Unfortunately, educators were struggling with existing products because it took too much time to recover after a lockdown drill was over. Teachers were using roll down paper, fabric or felt strips that were cumbersome during recovery but also did not make the room appear dark and unoccupied.



There were gaps on the sides, exposing too much visibility into the room.

In the case of Ocean Township Elementary, the particularly odd-shaped glass panel on the school's gymnasium doors also needed a custom design. After researching several solutions, Dr. Ryan chose Belmar Window to develop and manufacture this new design since the company had been manufacturing interior (louvered) shutters since the 1980s.

The new shutters would need to be durable, ready to use at all times, block the view completely as well as being discreet, inconspicuous and reasonably priced.

Shortly after, Shelter Shutters™ was cre-

ated. The new design successfully solved every one of these problems. Fast forward, two years later, Shelter Shutters™ was awarded the US Pat. No. 9,243,445, and has since installed more than 40,000 Shelter Shutters™ successfully in schools nationwide and in Canada.

"Steve has developed a great product for covering door windows to eliminate visibility into a room when necessary to do so. The Shelter Shutter is inconspicuously mounted on the inside of the door and it is easily flipped over to conceal the entire glass area in the door, making it impossible to see inside the room. I would recommend the Shelter Shutter for an effective, efficient and fast way to conceal visibility into an individual room or large common area," Mike Textor, School Safety Officer in Wall, NJ.

FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- Magnetic vision panels that quickly and completely block out visibility into a room.
- Quickly snaps back into place immediately following a lockdown drill.
- ADA-friendly and built with durable fire-rated materials that work on any type of surface.