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**School of Rock locations feature Rockfon Cinema Black acoustic ceiling panels with matching suspension grid systems**

Chicago (Sept. 2024) – In a supergroup-worthy combination, [School of Rock](https://www.schoolofrock.com/), the largest and most revolutionary music education franchise in the world, now specifies [Rockfon](https://www.rockfon.com/) acoustic stone wool ceiling systems as the basis of design for its new North American franchise locations. Approximately 30 schools feature Rockfon® Cinema Black™ ceiling panels with finished-to-match Rockfon® Chicago Metallic™ ceiling suspension grid systems.

Founded in 1998 as a single school in Philadelphia, School of Rock now has more than 375 locations in 16 different countries, including over 300 in North America. Unlike traditional music education approaches, aspiring student musicians attend weekly one-on-one lessons paired with group rehearsals and live performances, resulting in lasting musical proficiency. Every day, more than 65,000 people, ages three and up, participate in School of Rock workshops, camps, and performance programs.

School of Rock’s mission focuses on growing a passionate community dedicated to enriching lives through performance-based music education. Its leadership team offers franchising opportunities for those who share their commitment to helping shape the next generation of musicians while running a successful and profitable business.

Amplifying the company’s success and brand to support new franchisees, School of Rock provides guidelines that include architectural and interior design plans. Each school usually ranges in size from 2,500 to 2,700 square feet.

“Over the past 25 years of operation, we’ve had various iterations of design guidelines. We began revamping them to make sure our desired look, feel, and sound was ‘written into law,’” said Pamela Ross, CFE, Director of New School Openings for School of Rock’s corporate franchise development.

While updating the guidelines in 2022, Ross continued to support the new school openings. She remembers her introduction to Rockfon Cinema Black acoustic stone wool ceiling panels: “A general contractor suggested the product on a build for a new school. We loved them. I immediately responded by saying, ‘What is this? I like these. Tell me more.’”

She contacted Rockfon for more information. In learning more, Ross found she liked both the look and the performance of Rockfon’s products. The ceiling panel’s high sound absorption was key. Rockfon Cinema Black can achieve a Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) up to 0.95.

As the conversation continued, Rockfon’s team invited Ross and her colleagues to its facility in Chicago and toured some of School of Rock’s Chicagoland spaces. Ross also had the opportunity to meet with Rockfon’s acoustic specialist Gary Madaras, PhD. “It was great to connect with an expert to reinforce and further refine some of our build practices. Gary’s now one of my go-to contacts whenever I have an acoustical question,” said Ross. “It’s been easy to work with Rockfon and get a response. It’s nice to have knowledgeable professionals to connect with since the subject matter is so specific.”

Previously, the ceiling-specific requirements in School of Rock’s design manual called for an NRC of 0.70 or more. After meeting with Rockfon, Ross updated it. “Now, it has to be at least a 0.85 NRC. The high NRC greatly assists with the reflection throughout the school overall to tamp down the sound level,” explained Ross.

“Aesthetically, the black color and smooth texture contribute to the vibe of the schools. They’re used throughout the space – in the lobby, student lounges, hallways, and one-on-one lesson rooms,” described Ross. “The ceilings’ black color draws the eye down into the room to create more of a performance atmosphere versus the white of a more sterile environment, such as an office or medical clinic.”

Rockfon ceiling panels’ stone wool material is hydrophobic – meaning it does not absorb water and does not sag even at 100 percent relative humidity. Stone wool also naturally resists moisture, mold, and mildew, and gives no sustenance to microorganisms.

Contributing to healthy indoor air quality, the low-VOC Rockfon Cinema Black ceiling panels have earned UL® Environment GREENGUARD® Gold certification for Office and Educational Environments. These products also are supported with a UL-certified Environmental Product Declaration and backed with a 30-year limited product warranty.

School of Rock’s updated design manual now recommends the use of Rockfon Cinema Black ceiling panels installed in Rockfon Chicago Metallic ceiling suspension grid finished to match the tiles. Rockfon’s ceiling system offers continuity and consistency between franchise locations while adding dramatic visual effect and ensuring high performance.

After completing approximately 30 schools with Rockfon’s ceiling systems, Ross is complimentary of the relationship, saying, “It’s been a very easy partnership with Rockfon. The products are readily available. We are provided with distributors in each market. The franchisees have no complaints, and everyone seems happy.”

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***School of Rock, more than 30 locations across the U.S.***

* Architect: School of Rock; Philadelphia; <https://www.schoolofrock.com>
* Ceiling manufacturer: Rockfon; Chicago; <https://www.rockfon.com>
* Photographer: Larry Wisowaty, School of Rock

***About Rockfon***

*Rockfon is part of ROCKWOOL Group and is offering advanced acoustic ceilings and wall solutions to create beautiful, comfortable spaces.*

*At ROCKWOOL Group, we are committed to enriching the lives of everyone who experiences our product solutions. Our expertise is perfectly suited to tackle many of today’s biggest sustainability and development challenges, from energy consumption and noise pollution to fire resilience, water scarcity and flooding. Our range of products reflects the diversity of the world’s needs, while supporting our stakeholders in reducing their own carbon footprint.*

*Stone wool is a versatile material and forms the basis of all our businesses. With approximately 12,000 passionate colleagues in 40 countries, we are one of the world leaders in stone wool solutions, from building insulation to acoustic ceilings, external cladding systems to horticultural solutions, engineered fibers for industrial use to insulation for the process industry, and marine and offshore.*

*For more information, please visit* [*https://www.rockfon.com*](https://www.rockfon.com)*.*

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