

Hurricane Katrina

A Decade of Progress through Partnerships

St. Martin Schools

11300 Yellow Jacket Rd., Ocean Springs, Miss. 39564

Applicant: Jackson County School District
Jackson County

FEMA Funding: **\$41 million**



BACKGROUND: Katrina's damage in Jackson County caused a realignment of the school district with more students moving to the northern part of the county, away from the Gulf. The new and improved St. Martin High School opened in August 2010 and can accommodate 2,508 students. At more than 181,000 square feet, it has an increase of 34,000 square feet, and now houses a larger gym, a state-of-the-art media center as well as art and music classrooms and one for driver's education. The facility is also a community certified storm shelter.

THE DAMAGE: The upper elementary and the middle school buildings were located near a bayou and were destroyed by Katrina's tidal surge. Instead of rebuilding the structures, the school district constructed a new facility near where the high school was located, out of the floodplain. School officials also decided to convert the high school building into an upper and middle school building. The high school students moved into a brand new building five years after the storm.



St. Martin Middle School damaged beyond repair.

FEMA FUNDING: A public assistance grant of **\$33.2 million** covered the cost of rebuilding the new facility for high school students and of renovation of the old high school now used for lower grades. A Hazard Mitigation Program Grant of **\$5.9 million** was awarded to upgrade the high school to a FEMA 361 certified storm shelter. Another **\$1.9 million** went toward replacement of contents.



FEMA

