In the Fall of 2001, East Lake Academy opened its doors with grades Kindergarten through Third and two full-time teachers. The idea of a pair of Chicago-area families, East Lake was approved as a Catholic school sponsored by the Legion of Christ.
East Lake’s growth required moving from cramped quarters to space that would allow rapid growth and facilitate their vision for ongoing growth and development. Because of their rapid progress, East Lake also needed their new building complex within a short period of time.

Whitley delivered the East Lake complex to distributor G.E. Modular Space within five months. This allowed the school to accept new students at the normal beginning of the school year. Despite lengthy government building approvals in the Chicago area, the building was still completed on time. The building, which contains offices, a cafeteria, classrooms, and lounges, is also designed to allow for easy expansion at a later date.