

# 2012 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

## Joplin Interim High School

Joplin, MO

Renovation

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CGA Architects and DLR Group

# Joplin Interim High School



One of the deadliest and most destructive tornadoes in the history of the United States ripped through Joplin, Mo., May 22, 2011. As it traveled along a 13-mile path it damaged or destroyed 10 schools. Joplin High School was a total loss.

Two days after the storm Joplin Schools Superintendent Dr. Huff promised school would **start on time August 17**. To complete this feat, the district relied on local and national experts to design and construct an interim high school within 55 business days.

# Joplin Interim High School



# Delivering Our Promise

## Community Environment:

The start of the school year on August 17 brought back community continuity Joplin needed to heal after the tragedy.

Joplin Schools is the backbone of the community. The school district is leading the rebuilding efforts to get the community back to a sense of normalcy so patrons can move past the events of May 22, 2011 and plan for a vibrant future.



*First Day of School 2011*

## Community Healing

**Community Environment:** August 17, 2011 has been marked as one of the most celebrated days in Joplin Schools' history because of the District's leadership and the staff's commitment to the students. On that day, the world was watching. National and local media crews broadcast live from Joplin interim school the first day of school.

The Joplin Interim High School is not about a building. It is a living example of how design and architecture can elevate the human experience. The space inspires students to move beyond the tragic events of the past and move forward with their fellow students in a space that is truly a healing and learning environment for students, faculty, and the community.





## Efficient Design

**Learning Environment:** A 96,000 SF freestanding former Shopko big box space attached to a mall was identified as one of the few standing buildings in Joplin with the space available to house an interim high school for 1,200 students. The space previously sat vacant for 10 years.

Knowing that 1,200 students should need more than 200,000 SF, the design integrates every square inch of existing space and features 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning environments utilizing flexibility and interconnectivity. Six small learning communities divide the larger student population into 200-student learning communities and offer a more intimate learning environment for students and staff.

## Eagle Pride

**Learning Environment:** Flexible furniture allows students to customize their space and study in a comfortable environment.

The buzzword 'Eagle Pride' swept the community after the storm. Together, as they cleared debris and began the recovery and rebuilding effort, one common thread that united the community was 'Eagle Pride'.

Superintendent Huff challenged the design team to "Eagle Up" the interim school. For some students, this is the school they will graduate from. To make it a memorable experience, designers incorporated Eagle graphics to instill pride and ownership in their school.





## Collaboration

### Learning Environment:

Large openings, oversized pivot doors, and a diverse array of soft and structured furniture allow students to customize spaces to fit their personal preferences. The pivot doors allow classrooms to spill into commons areas to encourage project-based learning.





## Social Commons

### Learning Environment:

The social commons is home to a school store and coffee bar, both operated by the Business and Marketing student groups. The school's media center is adjacent to the social commons. The Information Technology support hub with a "genius bar" offers student a place to get tech support for their laptops.

Booths inside the social commons are a popular hang out for seniors.



## Adaptive Reuse

**Physical Environment** - Joplin's interim high school is an adaptive reuse of an abandoned big box retail. The vast space required minimal demolition.

Within 24 hours of project kick-off, designers had created a 96,000 SF model of the existing building showing basic walls and doors for new construction. This model allowed the design team to study the 3D qualities of the space and provide the construction team the ability to understand the magnitude of materials required to complete the work.

The 3D model was updated continuously to meet the 55 day design and construction team schedule.



## Existing Conditions

**Physical Environment** - The fast-track design required the project team to utilize the existing building's HVAC system. As a result, lower wall heights on some enclosed classrooms were used throughout the building to maintain indoor air quality.

Lighting was enhanced with new direct/indirect fixtures in an existing grid. Pendants provide a higher lighting level and are used to help define spaces in the open project-based learning areas. Hints of plastic panels and stained MDF add expression to the design.

## Introducing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Design

**Planning Process:** Our team took advantage of District events and gatherings to introduce the school design concept to captive audiences. On June 9, designers presented the initial concept for the interim high school to all Joplin Schools teachers at the Retiring Teacher Luncheon.

Later that evening designers presented the same concept to 50 parents and 150 students at the Band Booster meeting.



## Immediate Feedback

**Planning Process:** A formal presentation on the schematic design occurred June 10. Designers presented to a **teacher focus group** in the morning and to a **student focus group** at lunch. This was the first interactive session where designers solicited immediate feedback from teachers and students after introducing the design concept.



Designers used 3D REVIT models to show design ideas and receive immediate feedback from the student focus group. Students were able to view various spaces inside the interim school, including the main entry, commons, and collaborative areas. Students were able to give us a thumbs up or thumbs down on what they saw because it was easy to show modeled spaces that were also construction documents.



## Teacher Workshop

**Planning Process:** Designers hosted a teacher workshop to explain how spaces were intended to be used in the interim school. Designers led the teachers on a tour to point out unique spaces and new concepts they would incorporate into the curriculum in the interim school.

Designers realized teachers had been personally affected by the storm and this could be difficult but therapeutic. The design team arranged all the furniture in the school to create different scenarios throughout the building. They walked teachers through the spaces so the teachers could understand there was a purpose to the madness of the past 55 days.



# Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Data

<b>Submitting Firm :</b>	<b>DLR Group</b>
Project Role	Designer, Educational Planner
Project Contact	Jim French
Title	Senior Principal, Designer
Address	7290 W. 133 <sup>rd</sup> St.
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Project Role	Architect of Record
Project Contact	Chad Greer
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<b>Other Firm:</b>	
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
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City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

<b>Construction Firm:</b>	<b>Crossland Construction</b>
Project Role	General Contractor
Project Contact	Bennie Crossland
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# Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Details

<b>Project Name</b>	Joplin Interim High School
<b>City</b>	Joplin
<b>State</b>	MO
<b>District Name</b>	Joplin Schools
<b>Supt/President</b>	Dr. C.J. Huff
<b>Occupancy Date</b>	August 2011
<b>Grades Housed</b>	11-12
<b>Capacity(Students)</b>	1,200
<b>Site Size (acres)</b>	85 acres (part of NorthPark Mall)
<b>Gross Area (sq. ft.)</b>	96,000
<b>Per Occupant(pupil)</b>	80
<b>gross/net please indicate</b>	
<b>Design and Build?</b>	
<b>If yes, Total Cost:</b>	
<b>Includes:</b>	
<b>If no,</b>	
<b>Site Development:</b>	n/a
<b>Building Construction:</b>	5,500,000
<b>Fixed Equipment:</b>	611,875
<b>Other: technology</b>	605,900
<b>Total:</b>	6,717,775