

2013 CEFPI

Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

The Center School

Stow, Massachusetts



The Center School

The Center School in Stow, Massachusetts serves 600 Elementary School K-5 students and 30 pre-K students in a 98,000 sf facility that brings two schools together.



Physical Environment:

The new Center School "T" shape breaks the school into an Early Childhood wing; Elementary Wing and Public Wing, joined at the T with Administration, Art and Media Center. Taking advantage of the lower height original wing for Early Childhood classrooms, the volume of the Great Hall was reinvented for Music classrooms.

Aerial of school during construction



Physical Environment:

The site and building was designed to separate the often conflicting parent drop off/pick up, faculty parking and busses. The bright and welcoming Lobby is the nexus for all circulation and public events at the school. A comfortable living room that visually connects the Cafetorium, Library, and Arts spaces. Often the lobby is used as a informal student and parent gathering place.

Main Lobby and office



Media center nook



Learning Environment:

The design responds to 21st Century learning pedagogy with: multiple breakout spaces; L- shaped classrooms, numerous specialty classrooms and use of widened corridors for teaching and learning and an outdoor classroom. Breakout rooms are located between classrooms for each grade level and can be accessed from each classroom as well as the corridor. The Media center nook provides an intimate space at reading time for the younger students.



Outdoor classroom

Community Environment & Planning Process:

After years of debate and numerous town delays, the design firm's comprehensive renovation of the beloved Center School building along with substantial new construction has brought the community together in celebration of the project.



Community Environment & Planning Process:

Numerous community meetings and design charrettes including ones for sustainability involved teachers, community members, parents, and students—many of which were televised. Every teacher and staff member, along with numerous students, met with our educational planning team during multiple design phases.

“Green” charrette



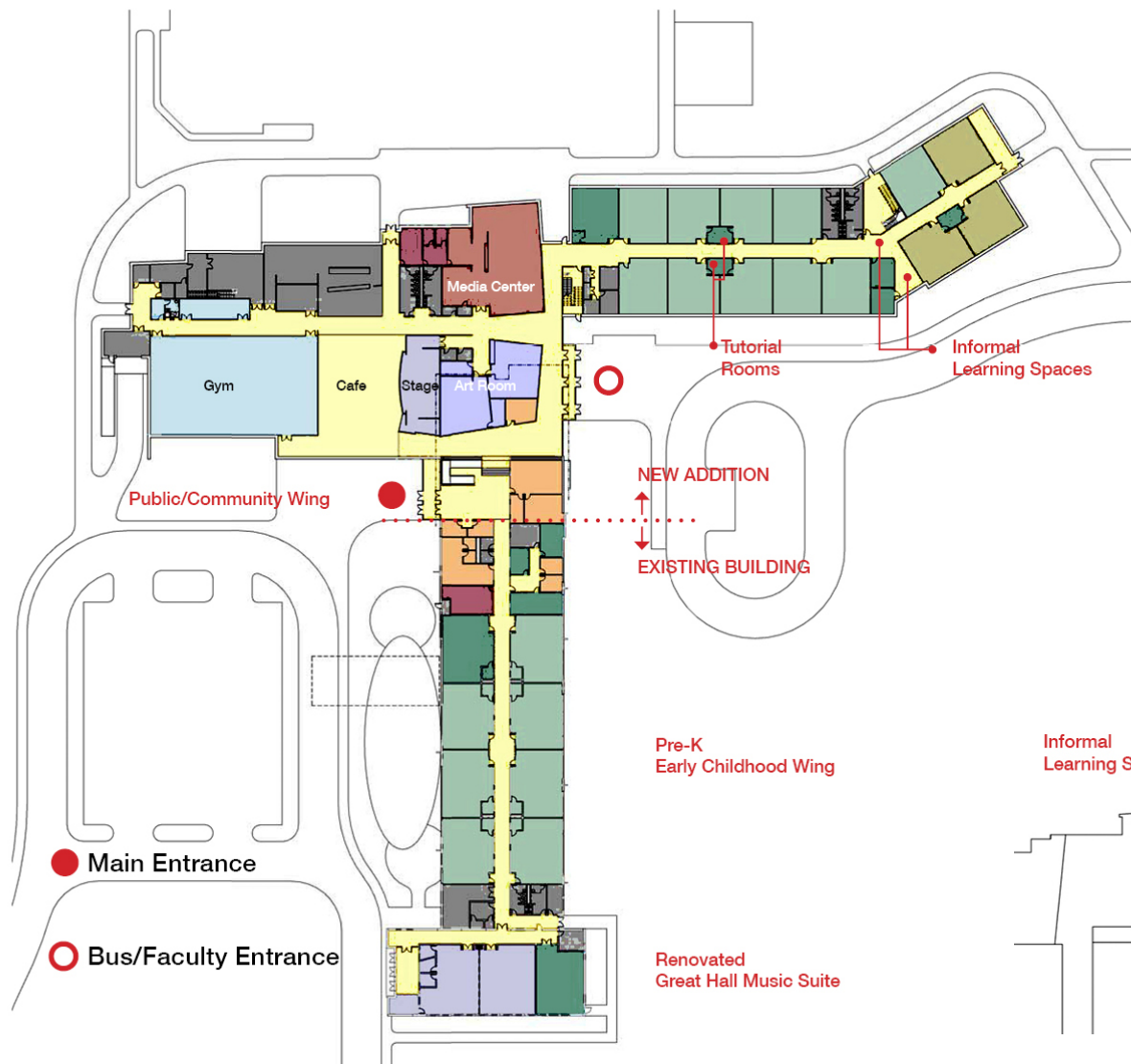
Throughout the design process, opportunities to promote creativity and innovation were planned including the student and community tile work which was built into the main lobby; geometric shapes cut into Pre-K doors; providing views into the Art rooms and the Media Center, and the design of the outdoor classroom and play areas.



Art Room

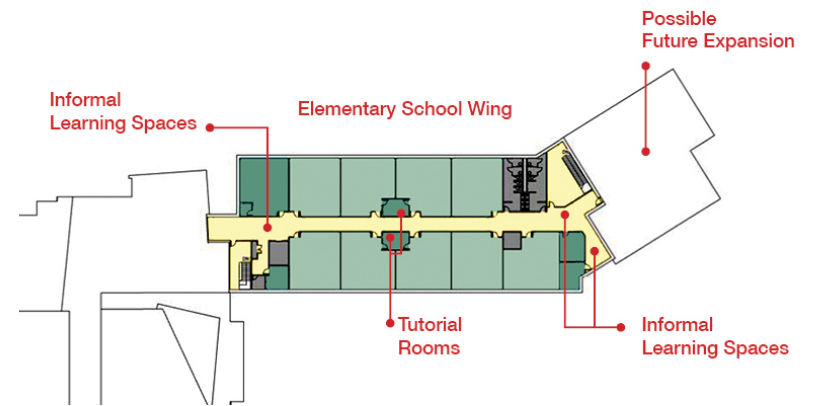


Art Room Window



First Floor

Organized around a central lobby, Early Childhood and Grades 1 through 5 come together at the Café and Gym daily



Second Floor

The older children in Grades 4 and 5 fill the second floor classrooms, with room for future expansion if populations increase

The volume of the Great Hall was reinvented for Music classrooms



Multipurpose gym and cafetorium



*View from stage
with operable wall
Into gym open*



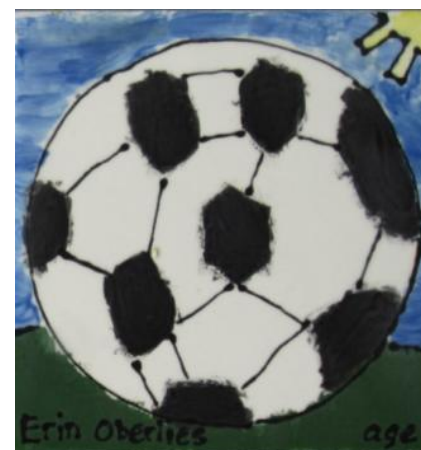
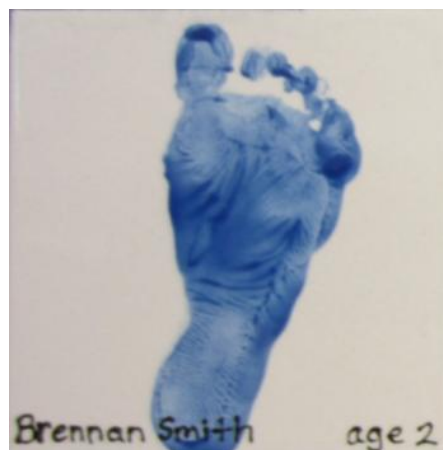
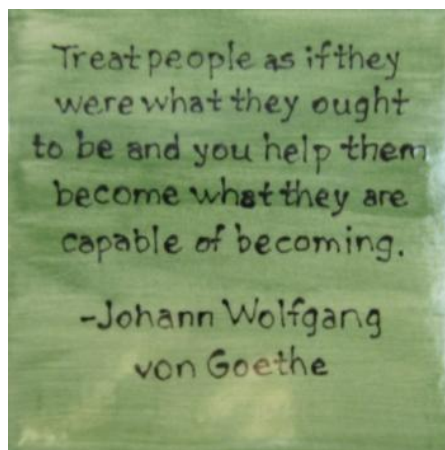
Entry: Separate student drop-off and pick-up, faculty parking, and bus drop off

*Variety of outdoor environments include
grade specific play structures, playing
fields, and a future garden*





Community custom tiles were incorporated throughout the main lobby and hallway



Submitting Firm :	Symmes Maini & McKee Associates
Project Role	Architect of Record / Designer
Project Contact	Philip J. Poinelli
Title	Principal In Charge / Educational Planner
Address	1000 Massachusetts Ave.
City, State or Province, Country	Cambridge, MA
Phone	617.547.5400

Joint Partner Firm:	
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

Other Firm:	
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

Construction Firm:	Brait Builders Company
Project Role	General Contractor
Project Contact	Robert Brait
Title	President
Address	506 Plain Street Suite 201
City, State or Province, Country	Marshfield, MA, USA
Phone	781.837.6400

Project Name	The Center School
City	Stow
State	Massachusetts
District Name	Nashoba Regional School District
Supt/President	Michael Wood
Occupancy Date	September 2012
Grades Housed	Pre K-5
Capacity (Students)	630
Site Size (acres)	15 acres
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	98,000 gsf
Per Occupant(pupil)	155 sf / student
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	No
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
If no,	
Site Development:	\$4,101,000
Building Construction:	\$25,158,000
Fixed Equipment:	\$1,355,000
Other:	\$7,176,000
Total:	\$37,790,000 Project Cost