

2014 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Alfonza Davis Middle School

Omaha Public School District

Omaha, Nebraska



Alfonza Davis Middle School

Site Plan



Community Center

The lower-level dining commons is an adaptable space also used for performances and presentations. Visitors and students are naturally drawn along the main axis to the dynamic commons space which in turn connects them with views of the grove of trees that inspired its design. From the second-level entry, a community room also overlooks the commons and is designated space for community members to meet or gather on a regular basis. A small balcony off of this room allows visitors to observe the activities below.



Neighborhood Gatherings

The stage, located at the end of the gymnasium shows flexibility as it opens to the outside. It was designed to serve as an outdoor performance area for student and neighborhood concerts.



Mountain Top

Risers graduate down to the commons from the main entrance lobby forming areas for congregation and collaboration. This space serves as a forum for creative expression and offers strong connections to natural views. Along with informal gatherings, interaction within this space includes assemblies and performances celebrating student achievements.



Flexible Delivery

Flexibility throughout the school was an important consideration, and flex learning environments are incorporated into each grade level to accommodate variations in grade level student population. In addition, many learning and support spaces were designed with the option to change their function in the future. Shown below is the versatile band room with acoustical treatments, daylighting and direct outdoor access for the students to exit the building for marching band practice.



No Footprint Left Behind

The three-story design minimizes the building envelope and the north/south window orientation of the classrooms maximizes daylighting. Using the building as a teaching tool gives the students first-hand knowledge of the affects building design and occupancy have on the environment. An outdoor classroom, green roofs, rain gardens and storm water quality basins compliment the sustainability endeavor and engage the students. This LEED Silver building emphasizes the importance of optimization of energy performance, recycling, efficient use of water, and environmental awareness.



Interactions

The floor plan was developed and refined to address issues of safety and security while still incorporating transparency and views to fully engage students. The layout for this building begins with a main feature wall (organizational axis). This wall establishes a clear progression from the site entrance point, to an identifiable building entrance, through the main student gathering space and continues as an implied view towards the creek, trees and street intersection in the distance. This wall, along with the main entrance, creates a dramatic focal point for the building, but also zones the building in two halves: on one side is the activity/exploratory area and on the other is the academic area. This academic area is split into three separate floor levels with each grade occupying an individual floor. This organization also provides separation of younger and older students.



Transparency

The building plan reflects the five goals established by administrators, staff, students, community members, architects and engineers during an integrated design process:

1. Support Middle School Teaming/School Family Connections
2. Provide Safe and Secure Environment
3. Engage Students
4. Recognize the Footprint Left Behind
5. Plan for Seamless Technology



Light in the Forest

The selected design incorporates the goals and capitalizes on the opportunities presented by the multi-level site and its natural surroundings. The northwest organizational axis/plane serves two purposes. It establishes a clear progression from the site entrance point, to the building entrance, through the main student gathering space and continues toward the creek and trees in the distance. Secondly, the axis zones the building in two halves. The quieter academic areas are on one side of the building while the louder exploratory and activity areas reside on the other half.



Planning Timeline / Participants

Committee Schedule:

Date	Place	Purpose
March 4, 2010	Buffett Middle School	Memorable Goals
March 16, 2010	Buffett Middle School	Tour + Classroom Design
March 30, 2010	Elkhorn Ridge Middle School	Tour + Building Program
April 8, 2010	Saddlebrook Elementary School	Tour + Program and Site
April 13, 2010	Architect	Design Charrette
April 22, 2010	Marrs Middle School	Tour + Program / Building / Site Concepts
April 29, 2010	Teacher Administrative Center	Curriculum Supervisors Program Review
May 4, 2010	Elkhorn South High School	Tour + Program Review
May 12, 2010	Teacher Administrative Center	Curriculum Supervisors Program Review
May 18, 2010	OPS Service Center	Draft Ed Spec Review
June 7, 2010	OPS Plants Committee Meeting	Ed Spec Presentation

Planning Timeline / Participants

Committee Members:

Omaha Public Schools:

Mark Warneke: Buildings and Grounds

Carl Bloomer: Buildings and Grounds

Gail Formanack: Secondary Education

Susan Higginson: Accountability

Carla Noerrlinger: Research

Casey Hughes: Research

Jerry Primm: Purchasing

ReNae Kehrberg: Principal, Buffett Middle School

Mark Suing: Principal, Saddlebrook Elementary School

Matt Brandl: Principal, Morton Middle School

Paula Peatrowsky: Principal, Prairie Wind Elementary School

Edward Bennett: Assistant Principal, Central High School

Chris Cismoski: Parent, Prairie Wind Elementary School

Lynne Seashore: Parent, Saddlebrook Elementary School

Architects and Engineers:

Lana Bayless: Civil Engineer

Tom Penney: Architect - Ed Planning

Pat Phelan: Architect - Project Leader

Curtis Johnson: Architect - Project Manager

Mark Brim: Architect - Designer

Cody Hillen: Architect - Designer

Janey Mass: Architect - Project Architect

Joe Brudney: Architect - Project Architect

Melissa Spearman: Interior Designer

Matt Farber: Structural Engineer

Ryan King: Mechanical Engineer

Eric Kamin: Electrical Engineer

Bryan DeWilde: Special Systems Engineer

Dennis Schwieger: Specifications Writer

Jim Torres: Quality Control Supervisor

Julie Wascher: Administrative Assistant

Chad Beeson: Construction Administration

Main Floor



Lower Floor



Upper Floor



Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Project Data

Submitting Firm :	DLR Group
Project Role	Architect
Project Contact	Mark Brim
Title	Principal
Address	6457 Frances St.
City, State or Province, Country	Omaha, NE
Phone	402/393-4100

Joint Partner Firm:	None
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

Other Firm:	None
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

Construction Firm:	Hawkins Construction Company
Project Role	General Contractor
Project Contact	Chris Grojean
Title	Vice President
Address	2516 Deer Park Blvd.
City, State or Province, Country	Omaha, Nebraska 68105
Phone	402-231-7811

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Project Details

Project Name	Alfonza Davis Middle School
City	Omaha
State	Nebraska
District Name	Omaha Public School District
Supt/President	Virginia Moon
Occupancy Date	July 2013
Grades Housed	Grades 6 - 8
Capacity(Students)	1,000 students
Site Size (acres)	30 Acres
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	183,000 SF
Per Occupant(pupil)	183 SF
gross/net please indicate	183,000/121,000
Design and Build?	
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
If no,	
Site Development:	\$3,100,000
Building Construction:	\$21,075,000
Fixed Equipment:	\$1,125,000
Other:	\$1,700,00
FF&E	
Total:	\$27,675,000

Supporting Images



Supporting Images



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