

2014 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Ridge Creek Elementary School

Humble ISD
Humble, Texas

Ridge Creek Elementary School



Ridge Creek Elementary School



A Gathering Place

Community Environment

The cafeteria and gymnasium share a folding wall that when open, allows for a large multipurpose space. A stage is also adjacent to and part of the gymnasium to support the entire multipurpose space. The district developed a joint use agreement with the YMCA and the gym and cafeteria are used frequently for children's camps and activities. The gym shares an operable wall with the cafeteria so a large community space can be created for gatherings.



Who Am I?

Community Environment

Graphics found along the walls of Ridge Creek were custom made to promote grade appropriate Social Studies and Math information in the collaborative and hallway spaces of each wing. Students are asked to answer questions about their heritage and community. They also are taught important historical and mathematical facts through these graphics.



Grade Division

Learning Environment

The new Elementary School is a two story building, oriented on the site in a manner that responds to the site in an environmentally friendly manner and to take advantage of natural daylighting. Classrooms for kindergarten through fifth grade are located on three – two story wings, each including six (6) classrooms, a flexible learning area, and support spaces such as bookrooms and teachers' workrooms. Each two story wing is oriented in a true East-West axis, allowing for perpendicular sun exposure and allowing a maximum amount of natural daylighting to each classroom. An additional one-story wing houses the Pre-Kindergarten classrooms and the classrooms for children with disabilities.



Natural Lighting

Learning Environment

The main circulation spine in the building serves as an active learning street, and as a sound separation between the building's quieter activities and the more public ones; such as the cafeteria, gymnasium and library. Anchoring the learning street at the entrance to the building is the administration area, including a safe vestibule for controlled visitor access. The library is also located along the learning street and is designed to allow maximum natural light to permeate the space. A multipurpose learning space has been incorporated into a library loft space and supports the library as well as the second floor classrooms. A courtyard also joins the cafeteria and library to allow activities such as outdoor learning spaces, seating areas and garden areas to reinforce instruction and the learning activities within the library.



Outdoor Learning

Physical Environment

Each wing has direct access to play areas and outdoor learning areas that may be equipped with outdoor learning activities such as number lines and math charts that help enhance student learning throughout the campus.



Lighting

Physical Environment

As the variety of the building's features show, this building truly is a learning tool, inside and out, and addresses the strengthened educational requirements for the math and sciences curriculum. The CHPS incorporation of windows into the hallways, classrooms and library save the school money on lighting costs, and has been proven to be better for learning.



Planning

Planning Process

From the onset of design, goals were established that would help form the educational specifications and shape the built environment for the new school. The goals were:

- o A sustainable, high performance school that would meet CHPS verified criteria.
- o A building that would be a learning tool and that would support the district's established curriculum goals.
- o A building that would embrace the community's strong history and rich traditions.

The Charrette process allowed the group to participate in every step of the design process, while investigating and analyzing the benefits and payback of every CHPS item.



Planning

Planning Process

A list was developed that became the road map for meeting the sustainability goals for the facility. The main additions were items that impacted the learning environment by the inclusion of day-lighting strategies, improved acoustics, and enhanced ventilation and minimized site disturbances. The team was careful to incorporate no cost and low cost items into the facility, and was very cognizant of pay back schedules for the main energy efficiency upgrades. Building on the sustainability goal, the design team worked with district instructional team members to identify possibilities for linking instruction to the built facility. The design team carefully studied the state-mandated science and math knowledge and skills requirements, and developed opportunities for the building to provide real-life, actual learning platforms for the students.



Floor Plan – First Floor



Floor Plan – Second Floor



Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Data

Submitting Firm :	PBK Architects
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Construction Firm:	
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Project Contact	
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Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Project Details

Project Name	Ridge Creek Elementary School
City	Humble
State	Texas
District Name	Humble ISD
Supt/President	Dr. Guy M. Sconzo
Occupancy Date	August 16, 2013
Grades Housed	PK-5
Capacity(Students)	960
Site Size (acres)	52.316 acres
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	113,423 sft
Per Occupant(pupil)	
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
If no,	
Site Development:	\$1,618,988
Building Construction:	\$13,834,775
Fixed Equipment:	
Other:	
Total:	\$15,543,763