

2016 EXHIBITION OF SCHOOL PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE

Ignacio High School

Category: Renovation

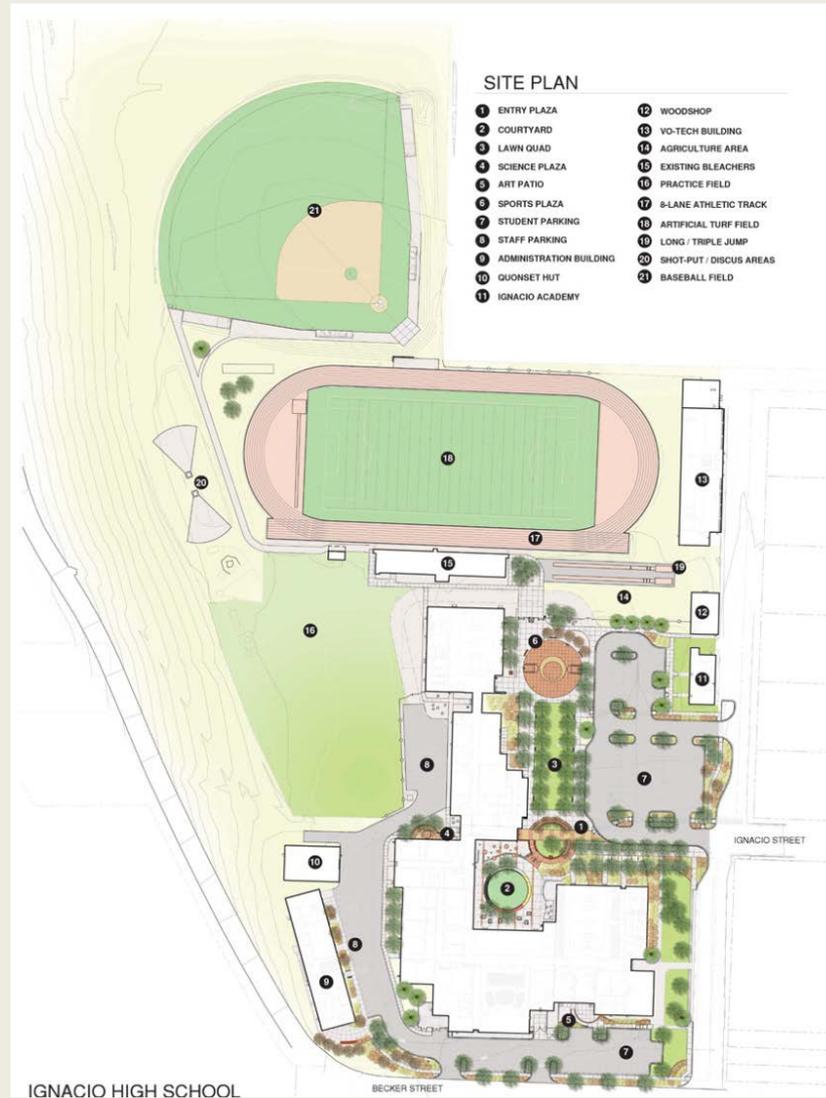
Ignacio School District 11-JT

Ignacio, Colorado

IGNACIO HIGH SCHOOL



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THE CAFETERIA



Rural communities thrive with local support and involvement, and Ignacio High School aspires to renew community pride and reflect the region's multicultural heritage. The location of the District has made its population tri-cultural, including Southern Ute, Hispanic, and Anglo heritages. In order to create a community-oriented school, the Architect and the District met to discuss the project with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, whose children account for approximately 40% of the student population. The Tribal Board had a continued interest throughout the Master Plan and design processes, and even helped to fund the road improvements for the middle and elementary schools.

BEAR DANCE GRAPHICS

To connect students to the heritage of their community, the inside of the school is covered with colorful graphics of ceremonial costumes from the Southern Ute Bear Dance. The images are of local members of the tribe and were taken from a local newspaper, The Drum, that employs local photographers.

To encourage public use, the library is located at the end wing of the school so that community members can access it easily without disrupting students. There is also a technology room adjacent to the library that is used for continuing education classes for the public.



THREE-SIDED COURTYARD



The three-sided courtyard that is central to the high school is used for community events and there are several basketball courts open to the public. There is also a petting zoo area put on by students from the Ag Department that is used at specific times during the year.

The three-sided courtyard reflects the culture of the area with its design reflecting sacred Southern Ute geometry and symbolism and taking advantage of the mild climate. Four colors used in the courtyard reflect the colors of the four stages of life for the Southern Ute tribe. White, yellow, red, and black symbolize the birth, youth, adult, and death stages.

Also, the entrance of the school was intentionally located on the east side, which is consistent with Southern Ute tradition.

CAREER CENTER

An Indian tile mosaic that was part of the existing school was carefully moved and is now housed in the new high school. The career center at the entrance of the school is designed to reflect a Kiva, which is a sacred part of Native Indian architecture.

In order to put their mark on the school, students and staff from the Art and Welding Departments designed and built a metal windmill that will be displayed in the school plaza.



A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



Since Ignacio School District previously had below-standard performance rates, a lack of space for certain educational programs, and was losing students and staff to neighboring schools, the District sought to have a learning environment that would increase overall performance. Therefore, a reorganization of the major components of the building in accordance with the new curriculum was necessary.

Existing and new classrooms in the high school were designed as flexible learning spaces with LEED enhanced acoustics, daylighting, and the ability to accommodate current and future technology upgrades through “rough-in” of conduit and connection points.

INTERACTIVE FLEX AREAS



The academic core of the building was developed adjacent to a three-sided courtyard, creating an intimate and flexible environment for learning. The courtyard organizes the school into public and private areas and helps to bring education outdoors. Inside, classrooms wrap a “flex area” that offers opportunities for small groups, individual learning, and larger student gatherings. These areas are available for teachers to implement a variety of educational models outside of the classroom and for students to have a space that is all their own. Athletic areas are zoned into easily controlled environments.

STATE-OF-THE-ART AUDITORIUM

With the help of the Design Advisory Group (DAG), this project has also allowed for the implementation of more educational programs. For example, Ignacio School District hopes to grow the Performing Arts program with the new state-of-the-art auditorium and students are now able to receive college credit from Fort Lewis College. The District's ambitions for this facility were extremely well-balanced and well-rounded because vocational programs were expanded and improved alongside the educational and athletic programs. This allows students with a variety of future goals to be prepared for wherever life takes them.



In order to address future changes in educational approaches, the “flex areas” between classrooms allow for changing class sizes and the ability to do group work outside of the actual rooms. The classrooms themselves are varied in size to allow for different class sizes and a variety of educational models.

A WELCOMING ENTRANCE



Furthermore, there are several rooms that are not currently in use that were designed for a multiplicity of options, such as staff areas, additional classrooms, or group meeting spaces. As students enter the building, the Career Center is front and center in order to encourage higher education and future career success.

Statistics show that pride in one's learning environment makes a substantial difference in the performance of students. The high school's athletic facilities are one aspect that has helped to build pride in Ignacio School District. The CHSAA-approved fields and gyms allow regional and local tournaments to be hosted at the high school.

SECURE MAIN OFFICE

Along with LEED enhanced acoustics and daylighting, the high school has solar chimneys that preheat air as it comes into the building. Windows on the solar chimneys also allow for heat to be released as it rises, which creates natural cooling. These windows also bring daylight into the center of the building where ground-level windows aren't possible.



A new office addition creates a controlled building entry and serves to unite and organize the plan. The entry sequence provides security because every student, parent, and visitor to the school must enter the building through the office. Windows in the office maintain a high degree of visibility and allow staff to see all activity at the front of the school and in the courtyard. Parent drop-off areas and bus stops are now much safer and allow for easy traffic flow.

FLOODED WITH NATURAL LIGHT

By keeping the best parts of the existing buildings, repurposing them, and adding necessary additions, the Architect was able to give the district the highest value for its hard-won dollars while staying true to the Master Plan. In order to make the existing buildings safe and environmentally friendly, the Architect performed an in-depth structural analysis and the data from this analysis ensured that the remaining parts of the schools would be easily maintained and structurally sound.

The inviting outdoor environments, like the courtyard, inspire students to learn outside. The seamless unification of the existing buildings and the new additions allows the high school to fit into the community environment and blend with the other buildings in the District.



SUPPORTS FINE ARTS PROGRAM

The renovation and expansion of Ignacio High School was the last phase of a comprehensive, district-wide Master Plan completed in 2011. The planning of this facility required the Architect to lead a number of meetings with a specially-convened Master Plan Committee that included members of the community, school board members, and school staff. It also involved a DAG comprised of community members, designers, school staff, students, parents, and teachers. These two groups provided context, creative input, and critical feedback, and helped formulate the options included in the Master Plan. An important part of the planning process was an Architect-led program called “Through the Lens.”



AN INVITING ENTRY



This program is a joint educational venture in which students are taught about photography and, in turn, their photographs of the community influence the architectural design of their school. The Architect also held several community meetings and presented the Master Plan to the community at-large. This transparent process included sharing all DAG information and meeting notes with the public through the District's website and feedback was sought at several open house events.

This project entailed the renovation of the existing junior high and high school buildings and combined them into a single unified campus.

During the initial DAG meeting, all members jointly established goals and visions for the project, including:

1. Design 21st Century educational environments that support academic excellence and achievement.
2. Ensure district-wide student safety, security, and health.
3. Encourage “life-long learning” through community participation and access.
4. Promote a sense of community and embrace the tri-cultural community.
5. Integrate proven, high-performing design principals into the design of the high school.
6. Increase the number of educational programs, resources and overall performance.
7. Build pride in the students, staff, and community members for the school and the District.
8. Create a well-balanced curriculum that would meet the needs of students who have a variety of future aspirations.

A REALIZED DREAM

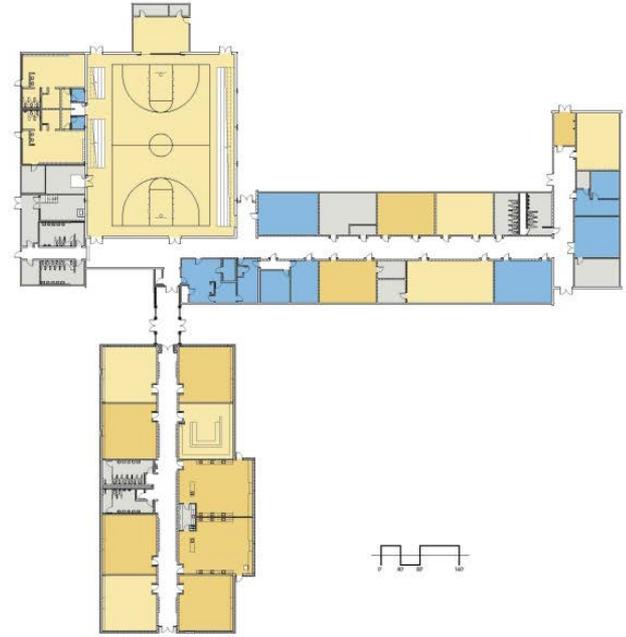


A PLACE FOR THE COMMUNITY



The Superintendent of the school, Rocco Fuschetto, was involved from the beginning of the design process through construction to ensure the goals and visions formed by the DAG were implemented in the project. Because Ignacio High School was the final phase of the district-wide Master Plan, the Architect was able to use data from the other completed schools to implement new and better ideas. In addition, the community, students, staff, and the Board of Education were given the opportunity to tour the school during construction. The Architect has worked on numerous projects in the Ignacio area so the firm continues to stay involved with the community.

FLOOR PLAN – BEFORE



FLOOR PLAN – AFTER



EXHIBITION OF SCHOOL PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE PROJECT DETAILS

Submitting Firm :	RTA Architects
Project Role	Architect
Project Contact	Brian Calhoun, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
Title	Principal
Address	19 S. Tejon Street, Suite 300
City, State or Province, Country	Colorado Springs, Colorado
Phone	719-471-7566

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:	FCI Constructors, Inc.
Project Role	Contractor
Project Contact	Mike Foutz
Title	Vice President
Address	186 Mouse Lane
City, State or Province, Country	Durango, CO 81303
Phone	970-259-8644

EXHIBITION OF SCHOOL PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name	Ignacio High School
City	Ignacio
State	Colorado
District Name	Ignacio School District 11-JT
Supt/President	Rocco Fuschetto, Superintendent
Occupancy Date	August 2015
Grades Housed	9th – 12 th grade
Capacity(Students)	304 students
Site Size (acres)	1,773,146 gsf (40.7 Ac)
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	97,422 gsf
Per Occupant(pupil)	316 sf/pupil
gross/net please indicate	1.28
Design and Build?	No
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
If no,	Design/Bid/Build
Site Development:	In cost below
Building Construction:	\$20,264,795
Fixed Equipment:	\$575,000
Other:	\$2,223,797
Total:	\$23,063,592