

2014 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Ignacio Middle School

Ignacio School District 11-JT

Ignacio, Colorado



Ignacio Middle School



Ignacio Middle School

Exterior Gathering Areas

Community Involvement – Rural schools thrive with local support and involvement, and the Ignacio Middle School aspires to renew community pride in their schools while reflecting the region and community's multi-cultural heritage.

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe's children account for approximately forty percent of the student population. Through meetings with the District, the Tribal Board, and the community, key program areas were identified as opportunities to strengthen the connection between the school and the community, including multiple community access points to the site, exterior gathering areas at the entry to the building and commons, space on site for the local agricultural program, and design sensibilities that respond to the town's multi-cultural heritage.



Viewing School Model

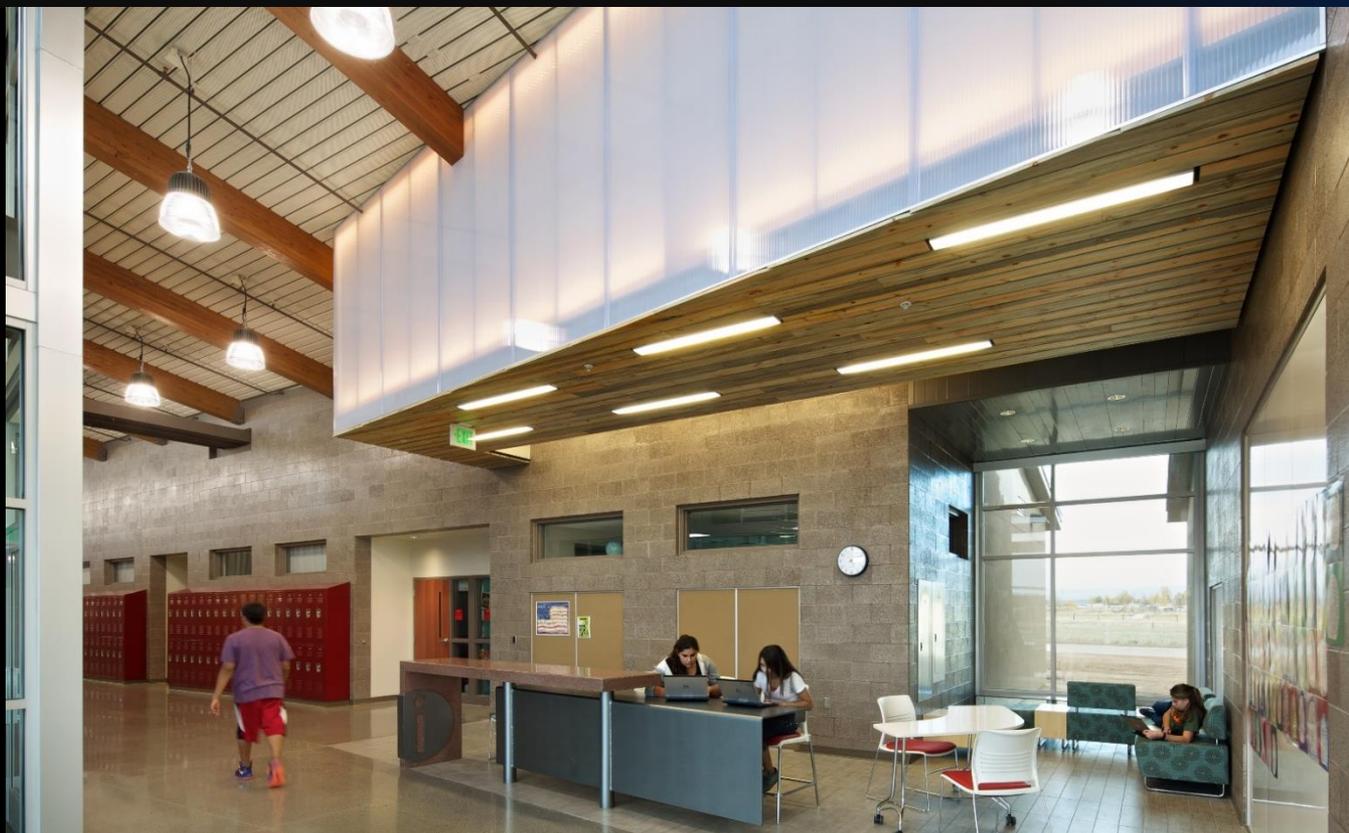


Flexible Spaces

Learning Environment – Ignacio is a traditional middle school which serves grades 6-8. The classrooms are organized into pods of three classrooms with teacher work rooms and student breakout areas between. The student breakout areas provide informal educational and social spaces, small group learning, and are designed as technology centers with the ability for students and teachers to access power, data, and multimedia.



The areas are flexible hubs allowing teachers to have a visual presence and availability to students throughout the day. Two central teacher work offices provide a professional work and collaboration space allowing the school to have flexible class scheduling and increased classroom efficiency into the future.



Outdoor Learning



Learning Environment – The learning environment extends to the exterior with an outdoor learning space that is centrally located on the south side of the classroom wing which reflects the sacred geometries of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and can accommodate small groups to entire classes. An exterior science garden area demonstrates the water cycle by directing building stormwater through a dry creek and science garden area.

Student Commons and Library



Physical Environment – The high performing, sustainable facility steps the building with the natural grade, uses low-water native plants for landscaping, and orients the building to views of the La Plata Mountains to the northwest. Tall, open spaces have exposed glu-lam wood and steel trusses and beetle kill pine ceiling elements. Glass overhead doors open the commons to an outdoor plaza for student and community events.

Passive Solar

Physical Environment, continued – The building employs passive solar design strategies and has large expanses of south facing glazing allowing the lower winter solar angles to penetrate the space while blocking them in the summer. The thermal mass of the exposed polished concrete floors and cmu block are designed to absorb and release heat, regulating the seasonal temperatures. Two rooftop solar chimneys use convection to collect and release warm summer air and preheat incoming air in the winter maximizing energy efficiency.

Daylighting connects the educational spaces to the exterior environment and improves the quality of the classrooms through using large expanses of windows, tubular daylight devices, and borrowing light from the day lit corridor with clerestory windows.



Classroom Wing



Planning Process – The new Ignacio Middle School is the first phase of a comprehensive district wide Master Plan. The architect led a District-formed design advisory team (DAT) comprised of a cross section of stakeholders including school administration, teachers, students, parents, and neighbors. This transparent, public process included sharing all DAT meeting notes through the District’s website.

Connection to the Outdoors



Planning Process, continued – The DAT established the following goals and visions for the design of the project:

- Provide a supportive and engaging environment
- Create adaptive and flexible learning environments for the future
- Take advantage of the site, views, and natural surroundings
- Seek opportunities to introduce daylighting into the classrooms
- Incorporate passive solar design strategies

Multiple schemes were evaluated by the DAT with public input throughout the process. The scheme ultimately selected capitalized on the site opportunities for view, daylight, and interaction with the outdoors, created a safe and secure environment for students and reorganized the building program to “create adaptive and flexible learning environments for the future.”

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Project Data

Submitting Firm :	RTA Architects
Project Role	Principal-in-Charge
Project Contact	Doug Abernethy
Title	Principal
Address	19 S. Tejon St., Suite 300
City, State or Province, Country	Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Phone	719-471-7566
Joint Partner Firm:	NA
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
Project Role	Design/Bid/Build
Project Contact	Mike Foutz
Title	Project Superintendent
Address	186 Moose Lane
City, State or Province, Country	Durango, CO 81303
Phone	970-259-8644

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Project Details

Project Name	Ignacio Middle School
City	Ignacio
State	CO
District Name	Ignacio School District
Supt/President	Rocco Fuschetto
Occupancy Date	August 2013
Grades Housed	6-8
Capacity(Students)	302 students
Site Size (acres)	15 acres
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	52,114 sf
Per Occupant(pupil)	173 sf (gross per pupil)
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	No
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
If no,	
Site Development:	\$1,493,472
Building Construction:	\$10,301,169
Fixed Equipment:	\$400,000
Other:	
Total:	\$12,194,641



Outdoor Learning

Exterior learning areas respond to Ignacio's multi-cultural heritage.



Science Classroom

Technology, daylighting, and exposed systems provide a supportive and engaging environment.



Exterior Environment

Secure access points with opportunities for view, daylight, and interaction with the outdoors.

Main Entry





IGNACIO MIDDLE SCHOOL