2015 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Johnson Middle School

Westminster School District
Westminster, CA
Johnson Middle School
LEGEND:
A. EXISTING ADMINISTRATION
B. EXISTING CLASSROOM BUILDING
C. NEW EXPLORATION BUILDING
D. NEW GYMNASIUM & MUSIC CENTER
E. RE-USE OF EXISTING MPR TO NEW INNOVATION CENTER
F. NEW QUAD
G. EDUCATION PATH

EXISTING LUNCH SHUTLER
EXISTING TECHNOLOGY ROOM
EXISTING LIBRARY
At a critical juncture, a colossal shift

Community Environment:
The District’s Mission statement reads: “Prepare all students to be responsible, resilient, resourceful, and productive world citizens in a changing and diverse society.”

In today’s rapidly changing world, we need to not only be consumers of digital knowledge, but content creators. While students are growing and developing new passions, skills, and confidence, the time period of middle school should be one of exploration – not absorption.

The Westminster Exploration Centers marked a colossal shift in the educational philosophy of the district.
Re-Imaging Middle School Learning Environments

Community Environment:

The Westminster School District Priority Planning and design included educational programming, needs assessments, school site master plan diagrams, project scoping and cost estimating services for the District's recently passed $130 million Measure 'O' Bond Program. The process included over 50 community participants. Of particular importance to the District and community leadership was the planning and projection of the total needs to transform the District's existing school sites through educational program enhancement and the creation of state-of-the-art 21st Century learning environments. This led to an exploration process at the middle schools to create future ready learning environments that support the whole-student.
Integrated Educational Delivery / Design Thinking Problem + Project Based Learning

Learning Environment:
The new “Exploration Center” blurs the lines between Technology, Art, Science and Shop with the new highly-configurable, highly-flexible spaces that offer unique and personalized hands-on environments for students.

Informed by the desire for design based learning, these Exploration Labs are provided with glazed overhead sectional doors that allow adjacent spaces to flow directly into each other...allowing for deeper connections between disciplines, the design is fluid and models the learning.

A rooftop terrace provides an intimate vantage point where students can gather and learn outside of the labs.

“Thank you for the incredible job you did helping us grow our bond measure ideas into amazing spaces for students and adults. Our exploratory building is being used for innovative hands-on science instruction, amazing art creations, and design-based learning.”

--Assistant Superintendent, Westminster School District
Future Ready Environments for Tomorrow’s Innovators

Learning Environment:

Repurposing the old MPR created an Innovation Center, a place of research that supports the Exploration Center and allows for content creation, discovery and collaboration for students.

The MPR was completely gutted and renovated with new roofing, doors and windows, HVAC and lighting systems, structural upgrades, and new furnishings.

The new space has become a social hub for the campus where students can study or simply hang out. The space has enhanced the community as a meeting space that did not exist before.

Smart, functional, and flexible furnishings. Movable marker boards create a variety of spaces for various learning modalities to occur.

You have truly changed the landscape for learning. Middle School students report the campus looks like a college environment and students’ behavior has risen to a higher level. They know they are in a serious environment for learning and growing and it shows in all they do.”

--Assistant Superintendent, Westminster School District
Zoom Out | Landscape: the 3rd teacher

Physical Environment:
Unique building design sparks imagination. Students and faculty are inspired by their new environment and take pride in their new school which offers transparent connections to the landscape & playful architectural landscape features.

The buildings form a strong quad centered in the heart of the campus, creating a sheltered and safe, student-centered space.

The Exploration Buildings are completely transparent on the ground level: learning on display was mentioned over and over again with the community members. Large overhead garage doors and exterior courtyards allow classrooms to extend outside. Students see activities taking place inside the labs, fostering a sense of learning and curiosity.
Exploration leads to Innovation in learning and teaching

Planning Process:

A collaborative, stakeholder based Long Range Strategic Master Planning process for the District had several goals:

- Engage District Stakeholders
- Build community support
- Transform the Learning in the District to align with the District’s Strategic Educational Plan
- Delivery 21st Century Learning Environments

One key goal identified by the stakeholder/participants was to make education relevant to all students, even those with non-traditional learning styles and strengths, so that all students are better prepared to enter high school.

Educators were tasked to look for similarities in their program types. This design-based exploration and visual-image-clustering led to the integration of the science, arts and technology spaces with strong educational cues on the outdoor circulation elements.
Design Thinking Planning Process Led to Design-Based Thinking Learning Space

Planning Process:
A different kind of facility was envisioned based on flexible lab spaces that can be reconfigured to support small, medium and large sized learning groups, integrate current and future technologies, and allow spaces to be configured as separate or open classrooms.

These Labs were prioritized because they allowed ALL students to benefit and experience innovative learning and teaching, even with limited Bond Funds.

Other phase one priorities included reconfiguring food service by providing a new Multi Purpose / Gymnasium and creating a new Media Center / Library that can also serve as a place to engage parents and families in the educational lives of their children.
**Planning Phase Timeline**

**Steering Committee**

Mtg #1 May 3rd  
Programming/Design Process  

Mtg #2 May 10th  
Exploration Committee Mtg#1  

Mtg #3 June 28th  
Finalize Proposed Concept  

Mtg #4 July 12th  
Prioritization  

Board Presentation  
Subsequent Committee Meeting Updates  
August 2010 Begin Design Phase  

**Exploration Committee**

Mtg #1 May 19th  
Program & Curriculum Development  

Mtg #2 June 2nd  
Draft Site & Floor Plan  

Mtg #3 June 16th  
Finalize Designs, Discuss Imagery  

**Middle School Site Committees**

Johnson MS Tuesday June 8th  
Stacey MS Wednesday June 9th  
Warner MS Thursday June 10th

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**Committee Members**

**Steering Committee (8 members)**

Superintendent  
Assistant Superintendent Curriculum + Development  
Assistant Superintendent Business Services  
Facilities Director  
Construction Project Manager  
REFP, Design Team  
Design Principal, Design Team  
Project Architect, Design Team

**Exploration Committee (34 members)**

Steering Committee  
MS Principals  
ES and MS Art, Music, PE, Science, + Technology Teachers  
MS Librarians  
Parent Representative (3)  
Interior Designer, Design Team  
Landscape Designer, Design Team

**Middle School-Site Committees (15/site)**

MS Principal  
MS Registrar  
MS Office Manager  
PE Teacher  
Science Teacher  
Technology Teacher  
Music Teacher  
Additional (6) Teachers  
Design Principal, Planning and Architecture Team  
Project Architect, Planning and Architecture Team
A space that allows for multiple pedagogies ...from team teaching, project based learning, to traditional instruction...

...the exploration center is designed to be a workshop for learners...with all types of learning preferences.
Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture
Project Data

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<tr>
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<td>Project Contact</td>
<td>Wendy Rogers, CTO</td>
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### Project Details

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<td>Supt/President</td>
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TEACHABLE CONNECTIONS
learning happens everywhere / circulation is used for experimentations
ROOM TO EXPLORE
flexible lab space with zoned discussion area
CODING + COLLABORATION

the ‘computer lab’ comes to you
WELCOME TO JOHNSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
celebrating community and a new front door