



New Construction

Amarillo Independent School District  
Amarillo, Texas

# TRAVIS 6TH GRADE CAMPUS

2016 Exhibition  
of School  
Planning and  
Architecture

# TRAVIS 6TH GRADE CAMPUS

"To have a transitional building and a transitional year where kids can grow into the idea of being a teenager, that's brilliant."

-Eric Dennis, English Language Arts Teacher, Travis 6th Grade Campus



# TRAVIS 6TH GRADE CAMPUS SITE PLAN

- 1 Classroom
- 2 Special Ed
- 3 Science Lab
- 4 Student Commons
- 5 Storage
- 6 Media Center
- 7 Cafeteria
- 8 Platform
- 9 Kitchen
- 10 Gymnasium
- 11 Choir Classroom
- 12 Band Classroom
- 13 Art Classroom
- 14 Administration
- 15 Behavior
- 16 Outdoor Student Commons
- 17 Play Area
- 18 Parent Drop-Off
- 19 Bus Drop-Off
- 20 Visitor Parking
- 21 Staff Parking
- 22 Creek

22



0 50 FT 100 FT





# COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT

“We work really hard on parent relationships, and I feel like inviting them in, even after hours, to use our facility, makes it our school and our community.”

—Brandy Self, Principal, Travis  
6th Grade Campus





Located in a predominantly immigrant community with a blend of 37 different languages, Travis 6th Grade Campus not only supports the educational, social, and developmental needs of 6th graders as they transition into junior high school, but also engages parents and the surrounding neighborhood. The new facility hosts an after-hours English as a Second Language program for parents as well as students who need additional help.



The outdoor play area serves as a new gathering place for the neighborhood. Located front and center, the inviting and accessible playground, fully-equipped with basketball and four square courts, soccer goals, and turf fields, is constantly animated with dozens of neighborhood kids and families on any given evening. Travis 6th Grade Campus functions both as a school and a community center, providing amenities that students and families might not otherwise be able to access. In addition, the indoor gym is rented out to the community for special events.





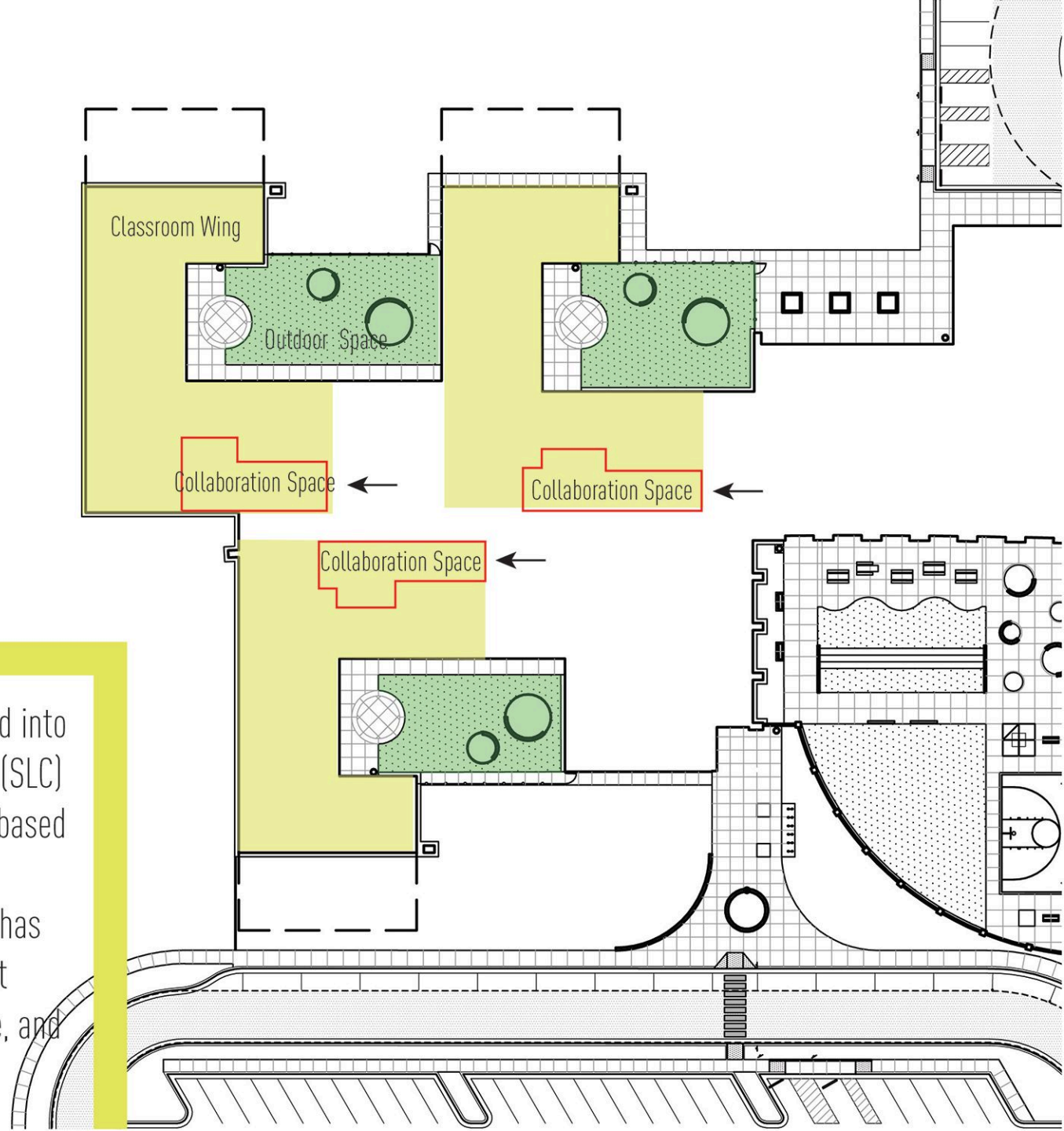
# LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

“A traditional classroom is not designed for a kid to lay on their stomach and read, but I walked through the collaboration area the other day, and there were six kids laying on their stomachs working. Working hard and very engaged. That’s not something that is offered in a traditional classroom.”

–Brandy Self, Principal, Travis 6th Grade Campus



The campus classrooms are divided into three small learning communities (SLC) to support team teaching, project based learning, and provide more individualized attention. Each SLC has its own classroom wing for content mastery classes, an outdoor space, and a collaboration space.





Structuring the school around these U-shaped SLCs has allowed faculty to teach at different levels developed according to the students' abilities. The SLCs range from remedial classes to advanced, eliminating the need to pull students out of class for remedial tutoring and yielding a better student-to-staff ratio.







The collaboration spaces, however, still allow for all the SLCs to come together and interact. Travis is the first school in the district to have these flexible spaces, equipped with moveable furniture, marker boards, pin-up areas, and a large LED smartboard, allowing multiple student teams to use the space simultaneously.





The film room has proven to be one of the most successful spaces in the school. Set up with a green screen and filming equipment, the teachers are able to engage in "Flipped Learning". Travis faculty have employed this new teaching method, filming their lessons and lectures for students to watch the night before class, to free class time for workshops and study halls so teachers can help with the actual application and practice of concepts and skills.





# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

“...[the facility] also lent itself to the teachers to be more creative. They have more options and they’re encouraged to get out of their classrooms, so they can come up with different types of lessons, and things you just couldn’t do in a traditional setting.”

—Brandy Self, Principal, Travis 6th Grade Campus



The building is sited to create a one-level campus arranged around a series of courtyards which take advantage of surrounding views. Along the main corridor, floor-to-ceiling windows allow students and staff to experience the vegetation and creek running along the west edge of the site. In addition, each classroom has corner windows to engage as much of the site as possible and provide ample daylight. The rest of the school, administration, library, cafeteria, and fine arts, are located around the main playground adjacent to the front entrance. This enveloping transparency allows staff to observe students at all times while making the school feel open and inviting.





This standalone campus has extensive daylighting, all LED lighting, nearly zero-maintenance flooring, xeriscaping, turf, low flow water plumbing, and could qualify for LEED certification if desired. The gymnasium's precast structural concrete walls and roof also enable it to function as an F5 tornado shelter for the campus.







The autonomous nature of the SLCs minimizes the student's daily travel time when switching classes, reducing traffic in the main hallway, and making the entire school significantly quieter. Providing the hybrid of compact learning communities and the larger campus program also helps students slowly transition from their one-classroom elementary school to the larger campuses they will have to navigate the following year.



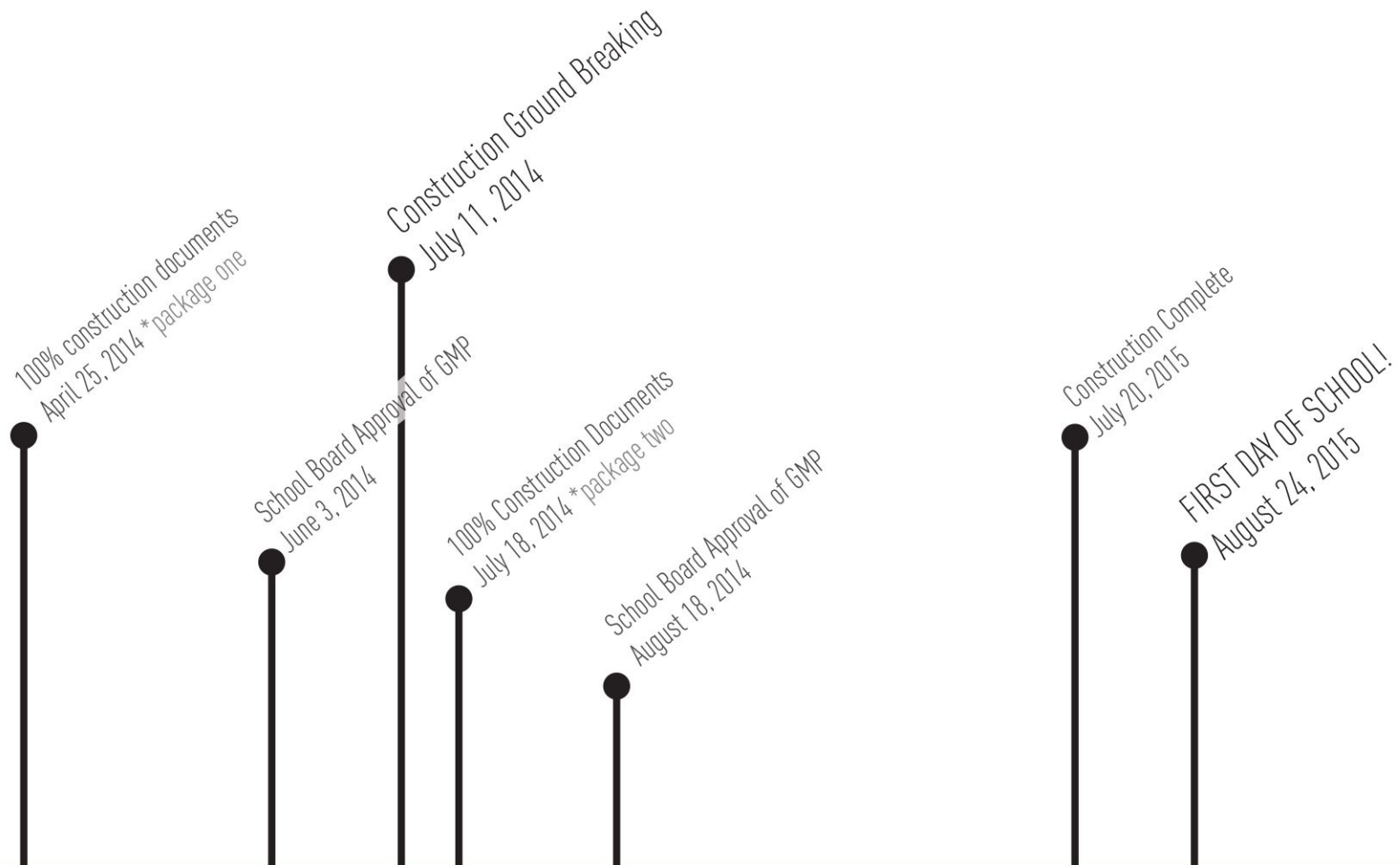
# PLANNING PROCESS

“Several years ago AISD realized we were overcrowded at Travis and we were going to have to do something different.”

—Brandy Self, Principal, Travis 6th Grade Campus



# TIMELINE



\*package one: site and structural

\*package two: building package to help the contractor get started sooner

The direction from the building committee was a desire for innovation; the driving question focused on making decisions that would still be relevant 10 years from now. Along with 25 departmental leaders, administrative staff, and maintenance staff, schemes and solutions ranging from IT to building layout were analyzed and questioned.







Because Travis isn't the district's first standalone campus, there was precedent to learn from. AISD has found that the sixth grade campus helps to identify students who are struggling and assist them with a better student-to-staff ratio. This different campus setting also helps reduce discipline issues at the junior high school level. In addition to building upon the district's existing knowledge, the team worked with four elementary school principals and a 5th-8th grade principal. Their input provided a balanced understanding of the elementary school environment from which these students come and the junior high expectations for which they need to be prepared.



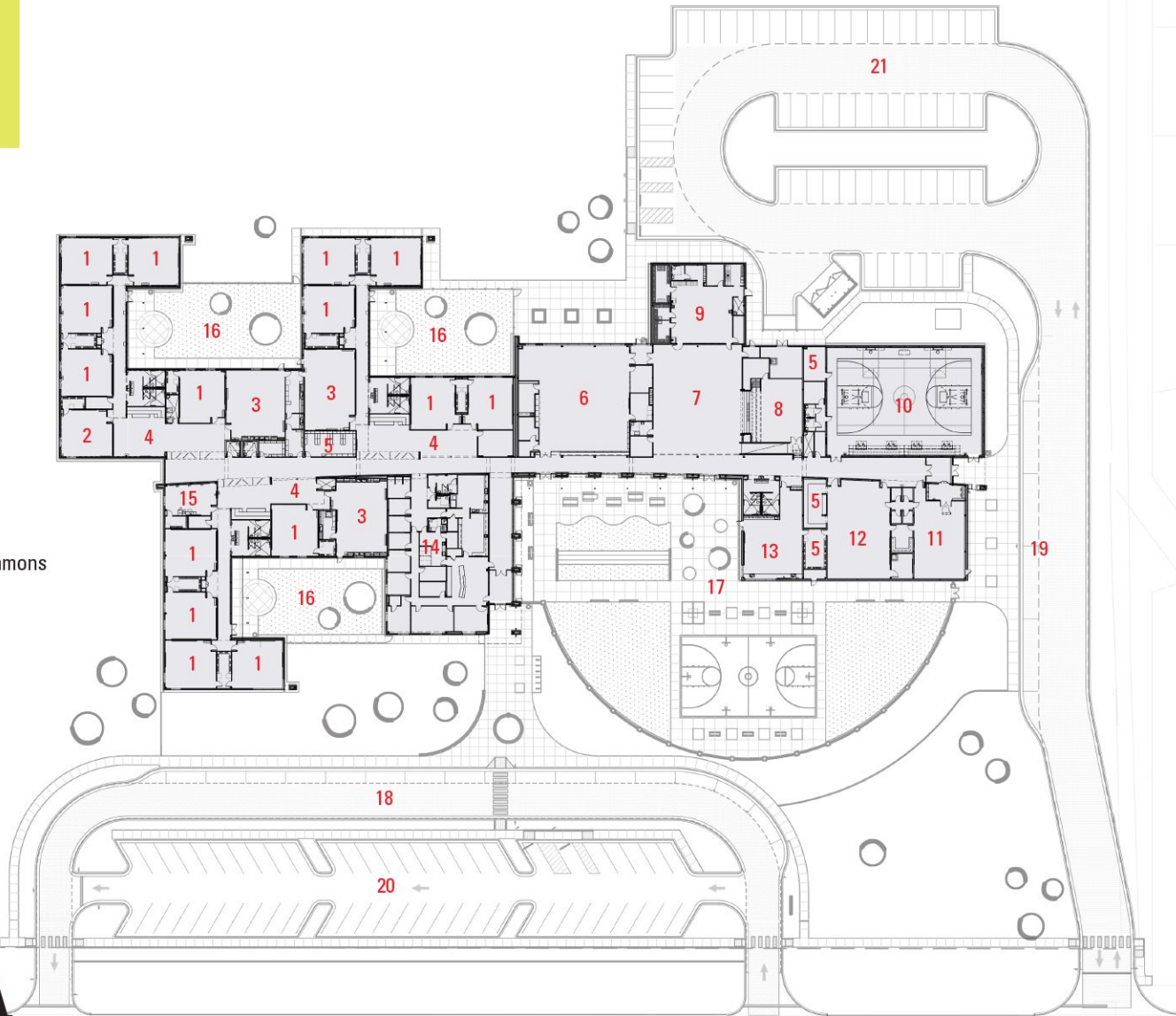
The progressive educational charge of the Travis faculty inspired a new type of 'classroom'. Employing an architectural solution to encourage project-based learning, flipped learning, and the use of tablet technology has not only proven to be a compelling solution for the future of education, but has also proven to be a vital resource and educational environment for the surrounding community as a whole.





# TRAVIS 6TH GRADE CAMPUS FLOOR PLAN

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- 21 Staff Parking



0 50 FT 100 FT



# PROJECT DATA

## Submitting Firm

Project Role

Project Contact

Title

Address

City, State, Province, Country

Phone

Dekker/Perich/Sabatini

Architect of Record

Barry Taylor

Principal / Architect

7601 Jefferson St NE #100, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Albuquerque, NM, USA

(505) 761-9700

## Joint Partner Firm

N/A

## Other Firm

N/A

## Construction Firm

Project Role

Project Contact

Title

Address

City, State, Province, Country

Phone

Western Builders, Inc.

General Contractor

Jerry Rohane

President

700 Grant St.

Amarillo, TX, USA

(806) 376-4321



# PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name

City

State

District Name

Supt/President

Occupancy Date

Grades Housed

Capacity (students)

Site Size (acres)

Gross Area (sq. ft.)

Per Occupant (pupil)

Design and build?

If no,

Site Development

Building Construction

Fixed Equipment

Other

Travis 6th Grade Campus

Amarillo

Texas

Amarillo Independent School District

Dr. Dana West

August 2015

6th

450 6th grade students

26 acres

72,000 sq. ft.

160 sq. ft.

No

14 acres, \$2.74M

72,000 sq. ft., \$11.81M

\$359K

N/A



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