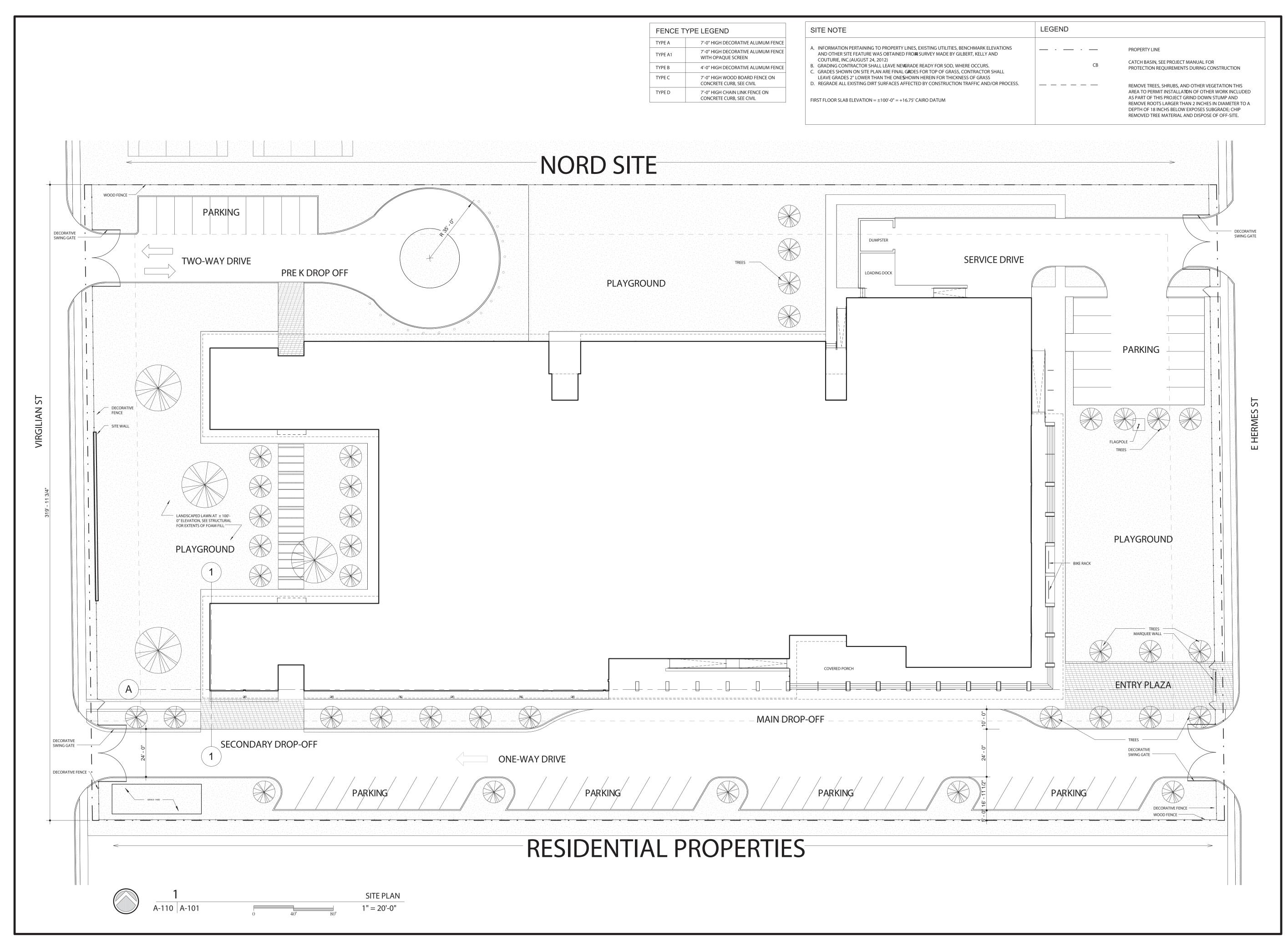
SITE PLAN | Waggonner & Ball Architects | ABRAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



### LEARNING FROM E.A. CHRISTY

We have completed the *Charles Colton School* in Faubourg Marigny and are now engaged in the renovations and additions to the *Sophie Wright School* in Uptown. Both schools were designed by City Architect Edward Angelo Christy. Sophie Wright, his second school, was constructed in 1912 and Charles Colton in 1928. In working on these schools we have learned the *merits of developing an efficient prototype*, one that is sustainable and has an *economy of means and expression* and is adaptable to all the dense urban neighborhoods throughout the city's older neighborhoods. Most of the schools have a U-shaped plan form that allows *daylight to enter both classroom and corridor, with an auditorium block and cafeteria at the heart of the school*, accessed by a *formal entrance located on the principal bordering street*.

In developing the new prototype, primarily in our case for suburban contexts, we became aware of the merits of Christy's approach. The buildings, typically three stories in height, are unmistakable as schools with their *generous window areas* and *brick wall*. The larger schools have a flat cornice line and are civic landmarks throughout the city. Christy was able to give *each school its own expression* by changing the color of the brick, changing the window and door trim profiles or designing a special and gracious exterior stair for access to the primary floor or piano nobile. We feel that similar adaptations of a new prototype are possible to make each one slightly different, recognizable and a source of pride for its neighborhood.

Another feature of the Christy school prototype is that the buildings are generally located on their own city block with *multiple* access *points*. At Colton we were able to create three distinct drop off points for different age groups. In this age of increased security this may be less and less possible for the present, but schools should be planned and designed to allow for this possibility in the future. Not only does it make the experience of entering the building different for each age group, it also serves as *a way to break down the scale of the complex* and offer an important and valuable sense of accomplishment as one moves on to a new grade.

Christy's early buildings were generally bearing wall structures, many with a steel column and beam structure on the ground floor to support the classroom corridor walls and wood floor framing on the upper floors. This is the case at Sophie Wright. In developing our renovation design for that school we were asked to insert a new full competition court gymnasium into the center of the U-shaped plan. As a result, we were able to make a very efficient school design that, in fact, became a progenitor for our proposed new prototype.

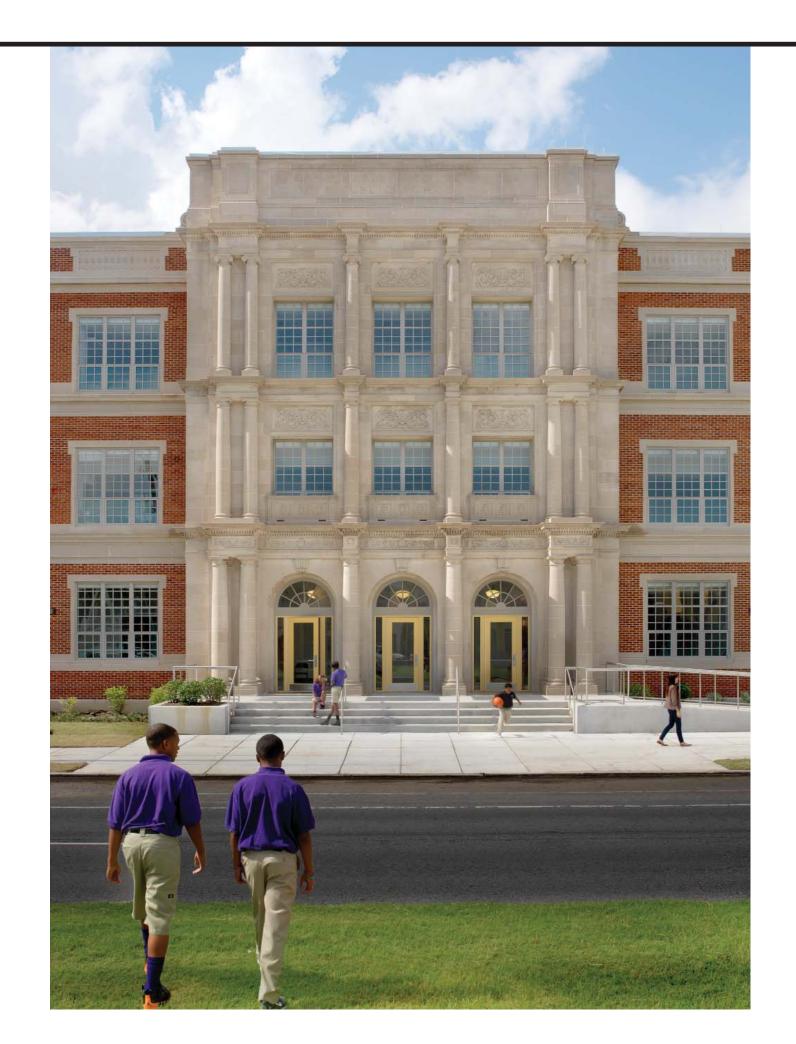
## **LEARNING FROM E.A. CHRISTY:**

## CHARLES J. COLTON SCHOOL RENOVATION

Total Building Square Footage: 143,442 SF

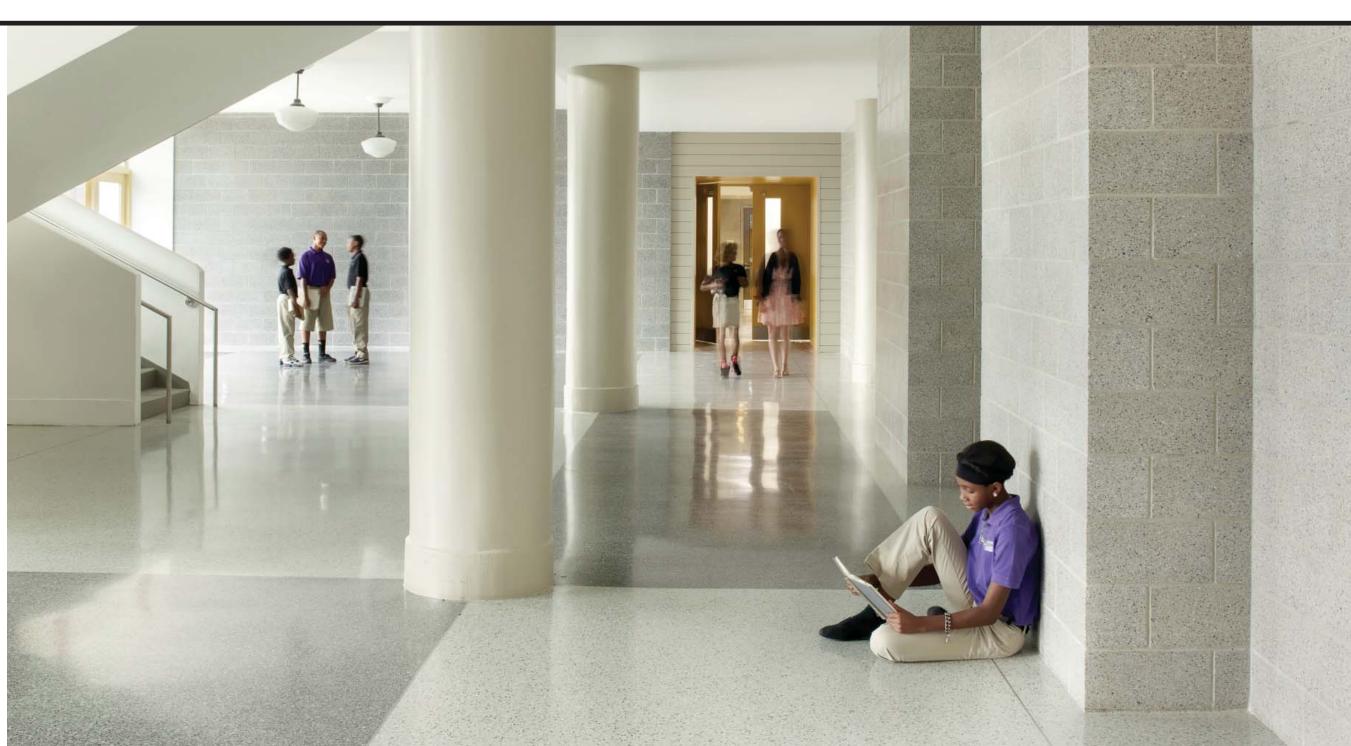
Total Site Area: 2.2 ACRE

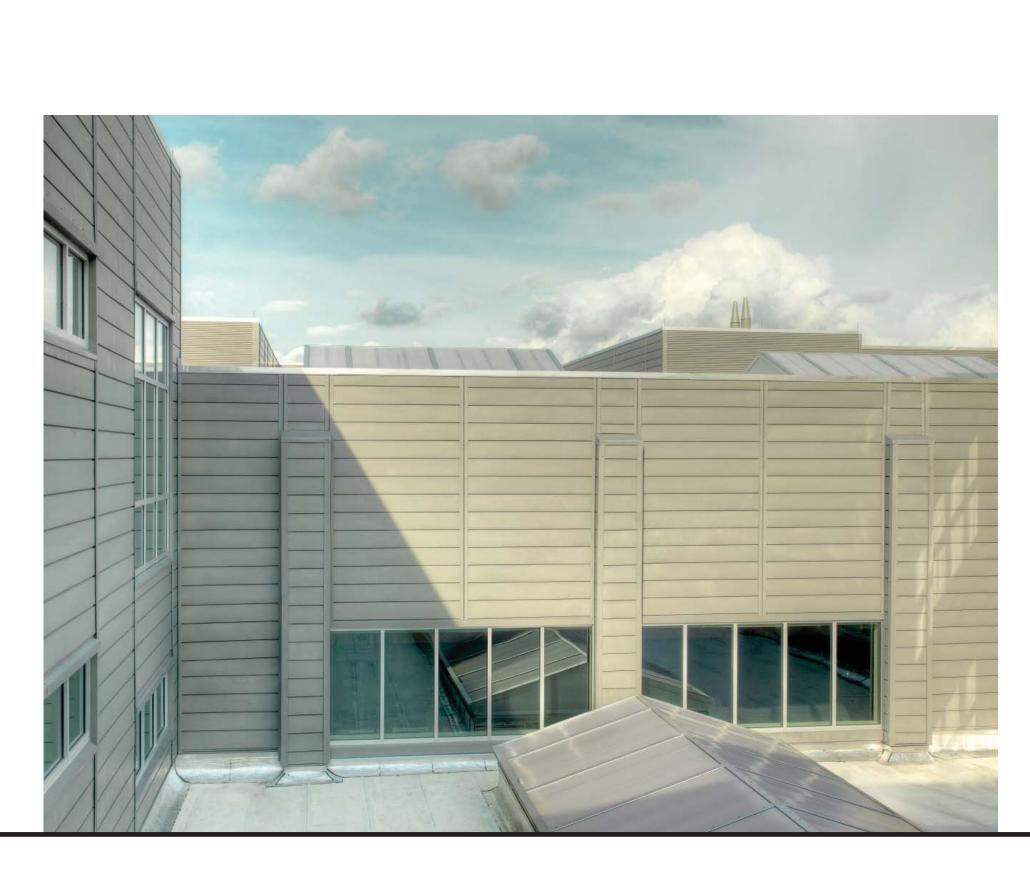












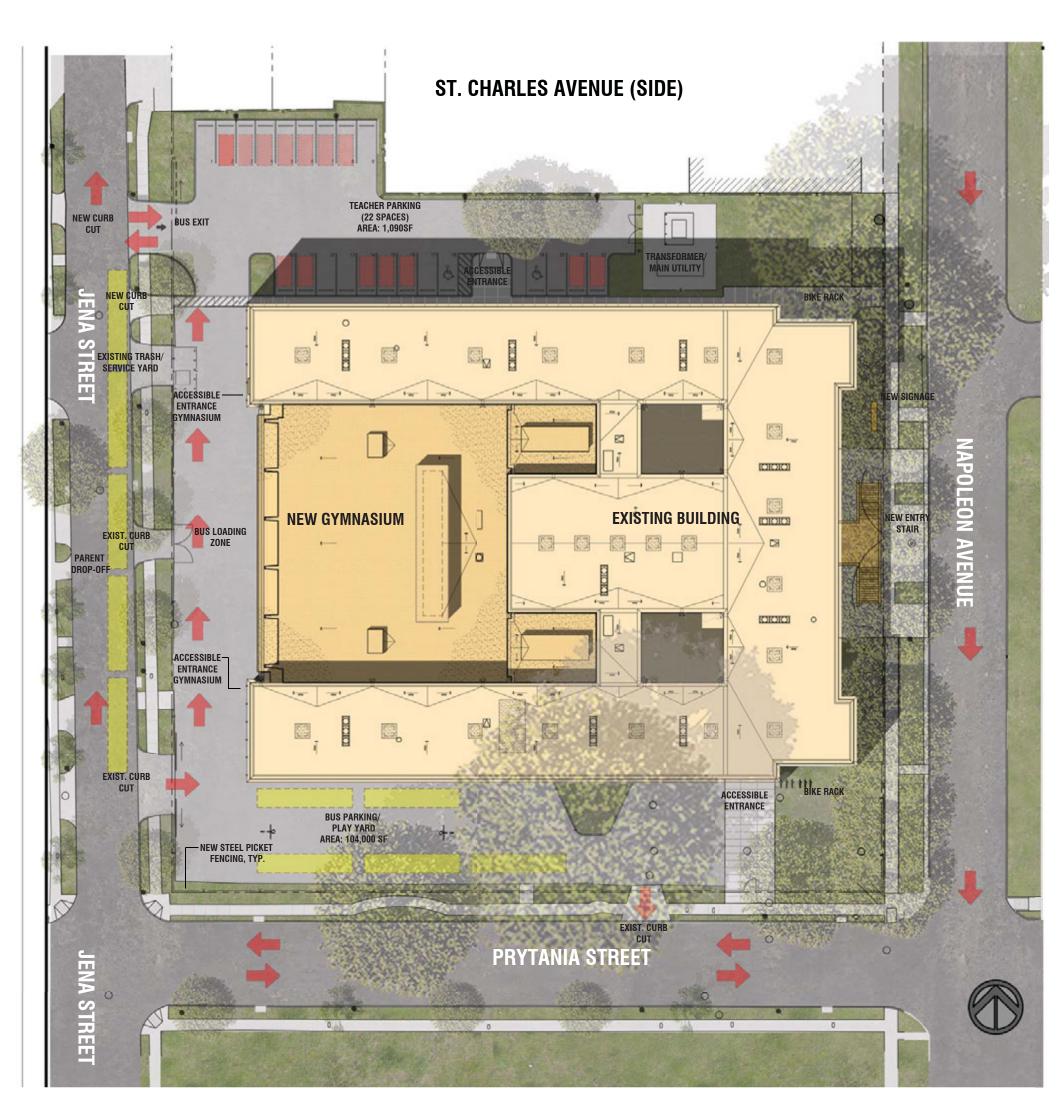


# LEARNING FROM E.A. CHRISTY: SOPHIE B. WRIGHT SCHOOL

Total Building Square Footage: 113,958 SF

Total Site Area: 2.1 ACRE

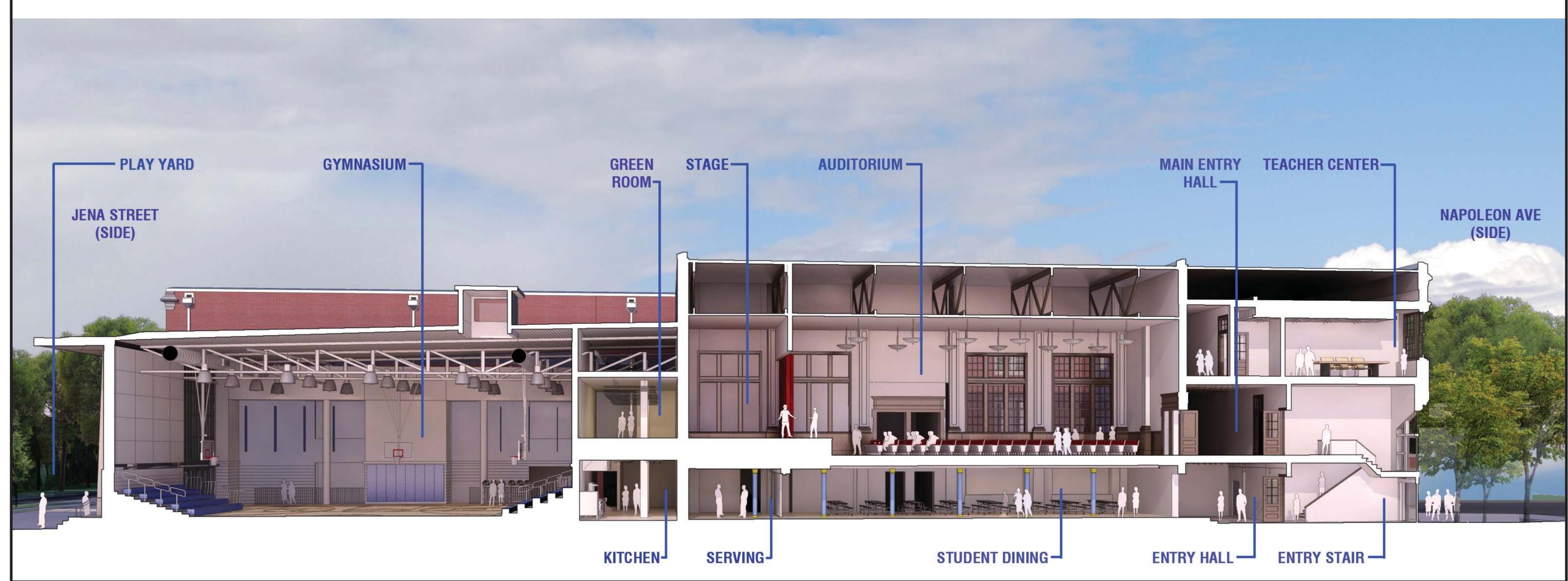




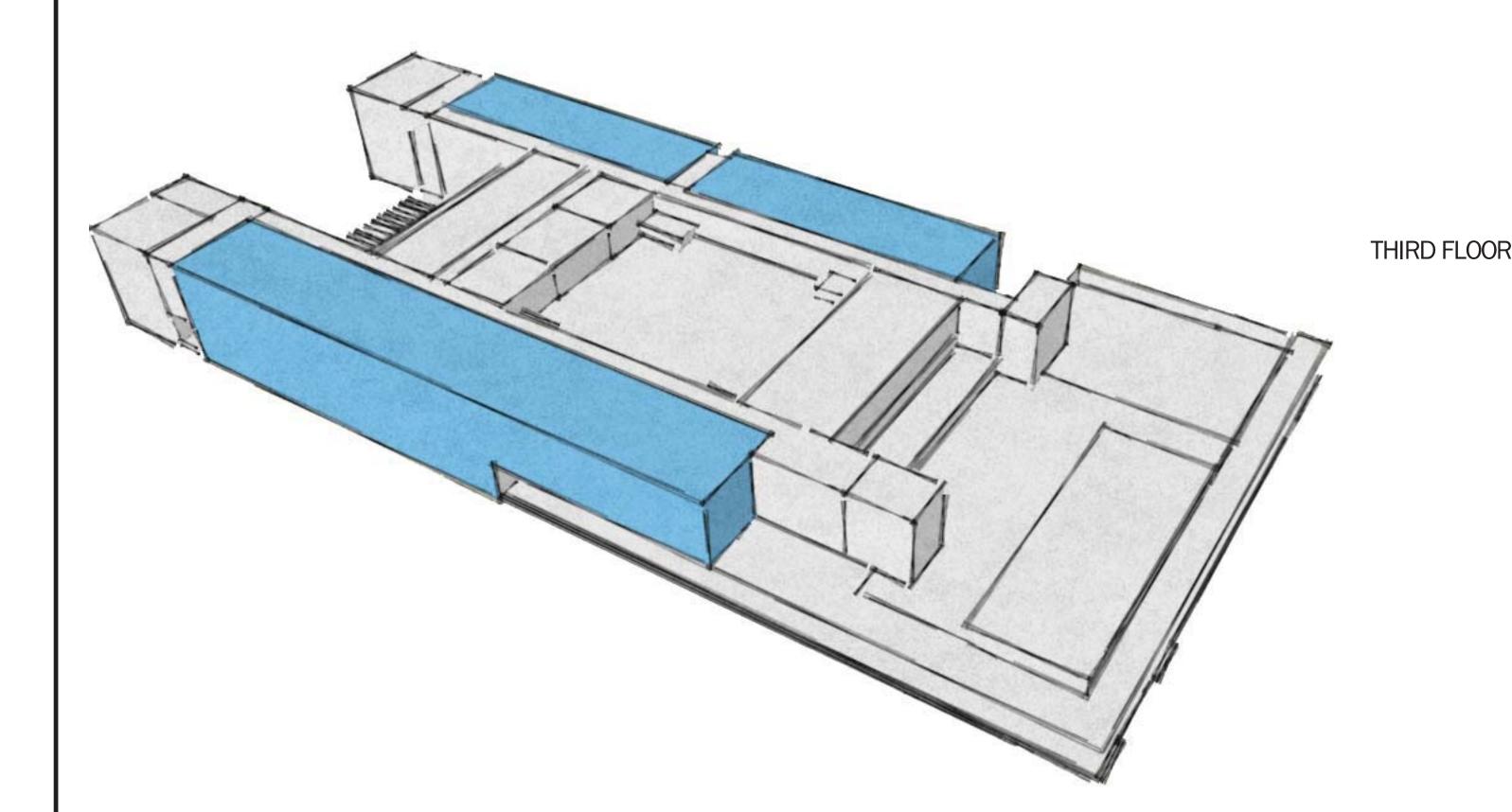






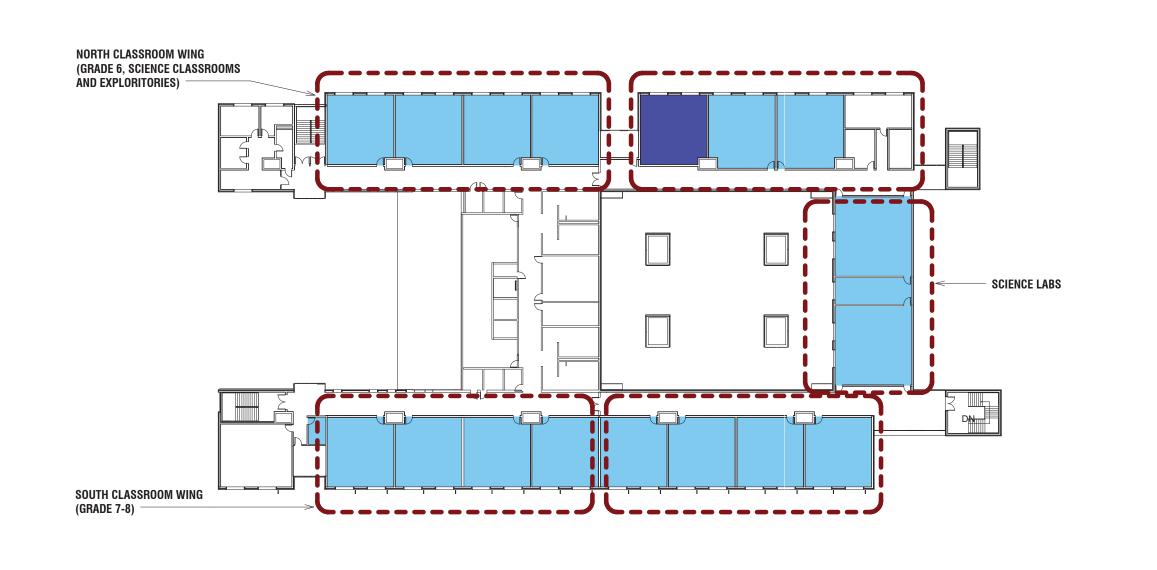


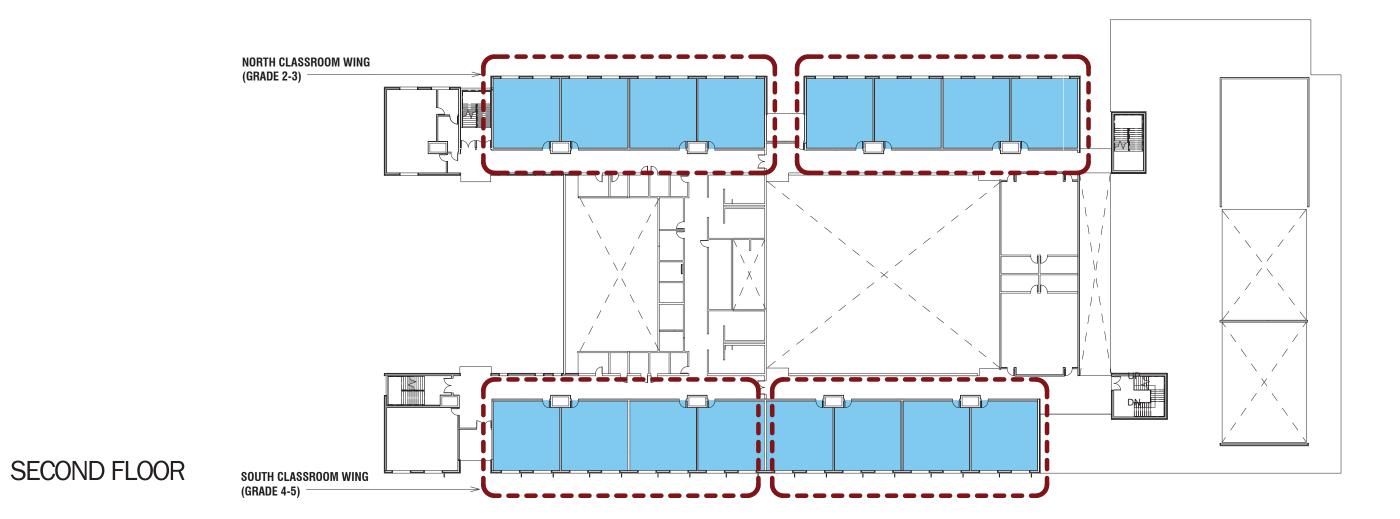
## THE MERITS OF THE PROTOTYPE PLAN:

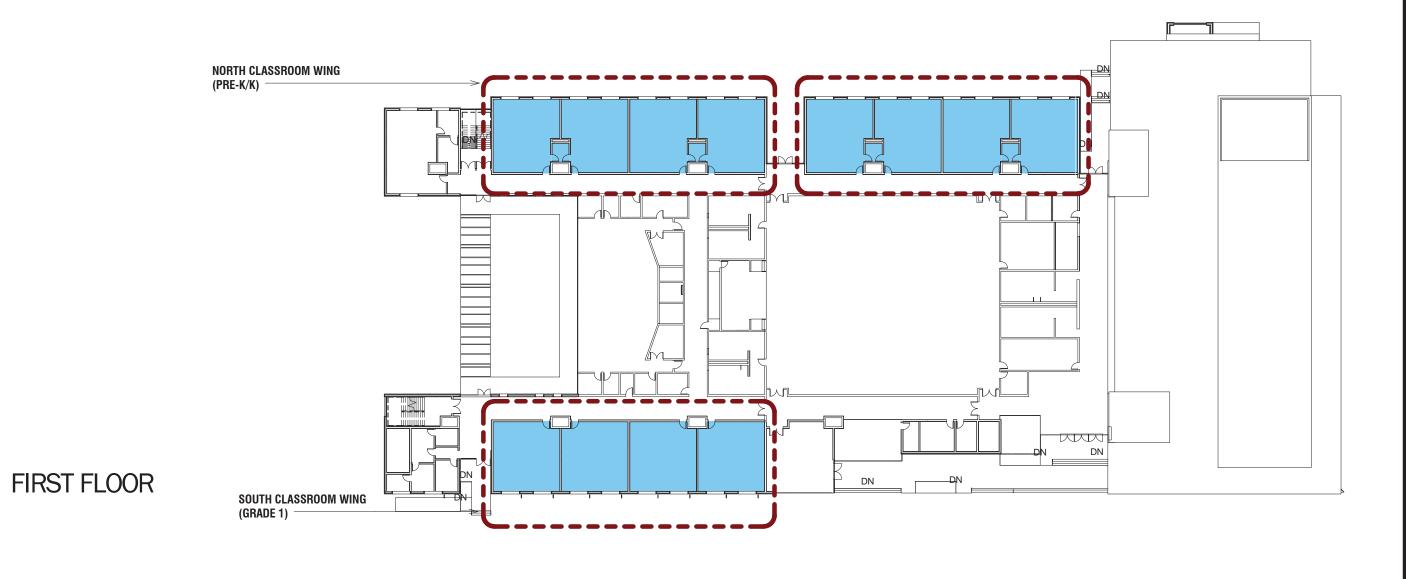


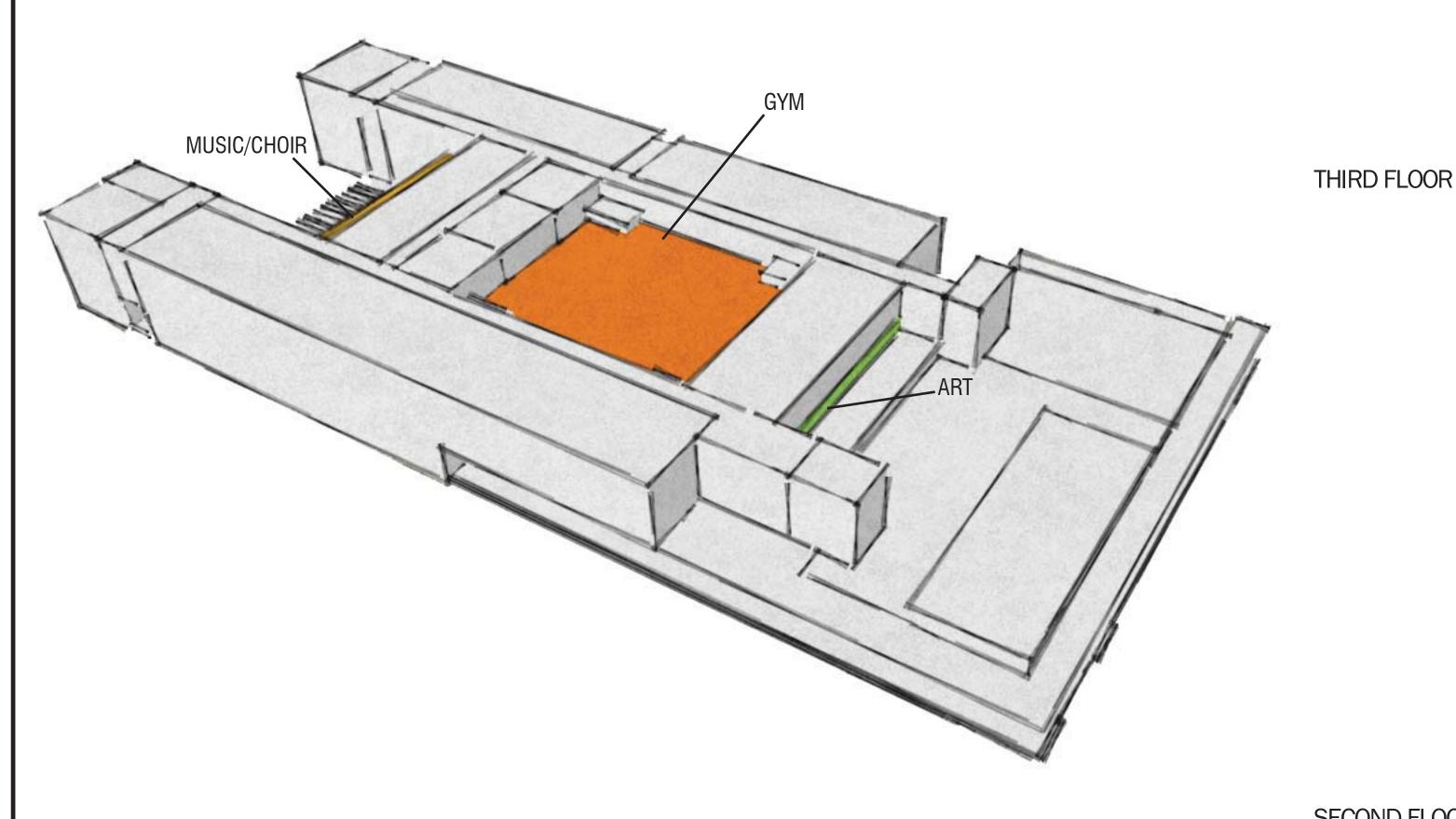
Neighborhood Classroom Arrangement:

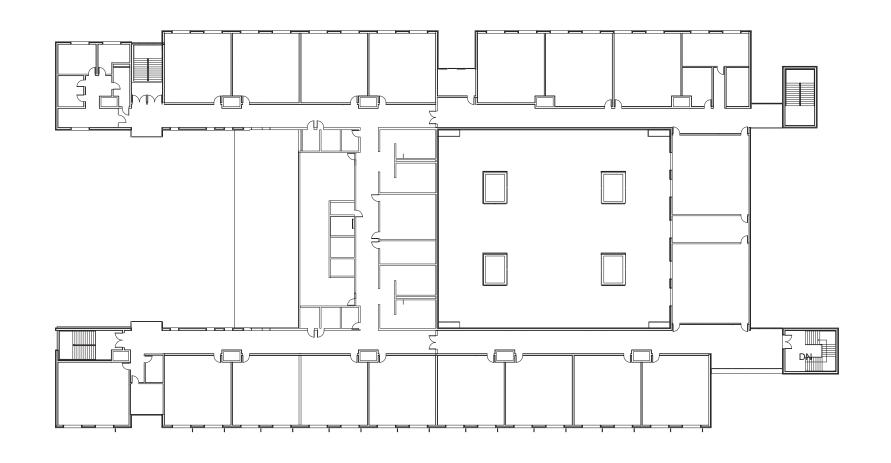
The plan form subdivides this large school into a series of "neighborhoods" with each 4-grade cluster occupying its own corridor and separated by doors from adjacent grades. The plan allows for a linear progression through the school with the smallest children (Pre-K and K) in their own "center" on the north side adjacent to their separate and protected play yard and away from the street. After Kindergarten, children would progress to the Grant Street side and begin their journey through the school.

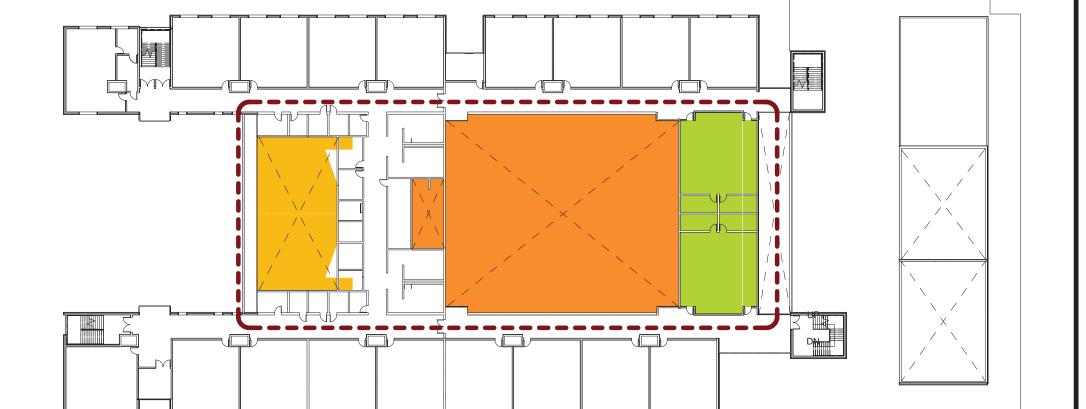










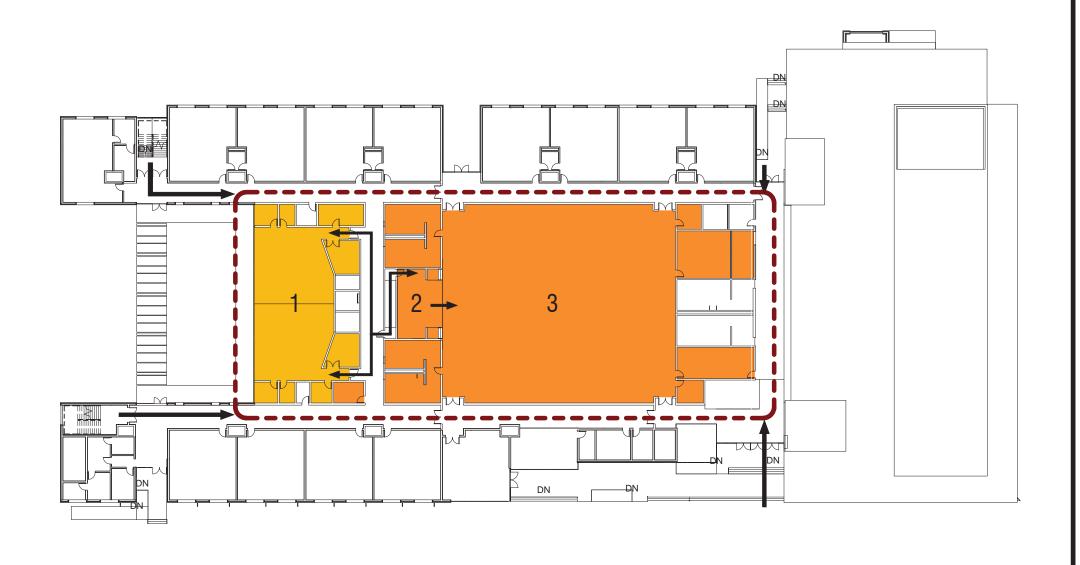


SECOND FLOOR

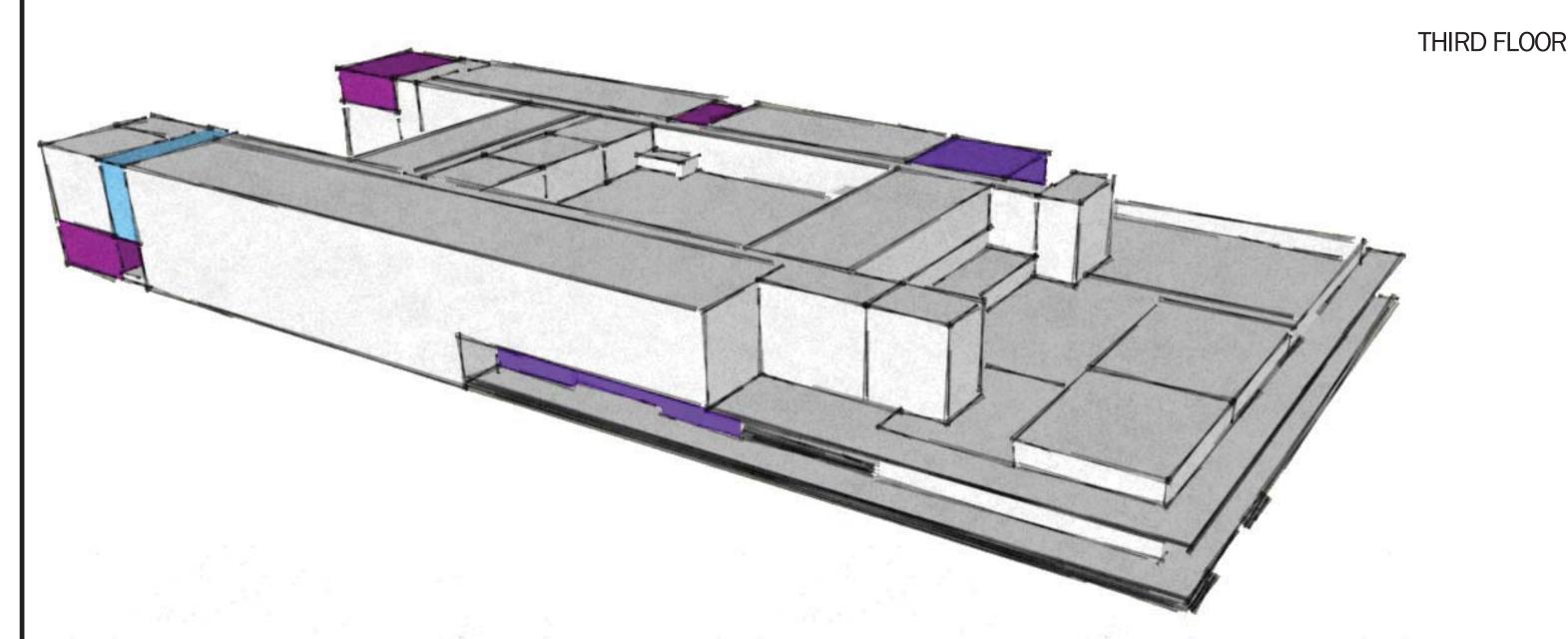
# Enrichment Programs at the Core:

Enrichment classrooms (Music, Gym and Art) are arranged at the core of the building to reduce students circulation path from core classrooms. Students from Music/Choir (1) can easily access the stage (2) which is open to the Gym (3).

FIRST FLOOR

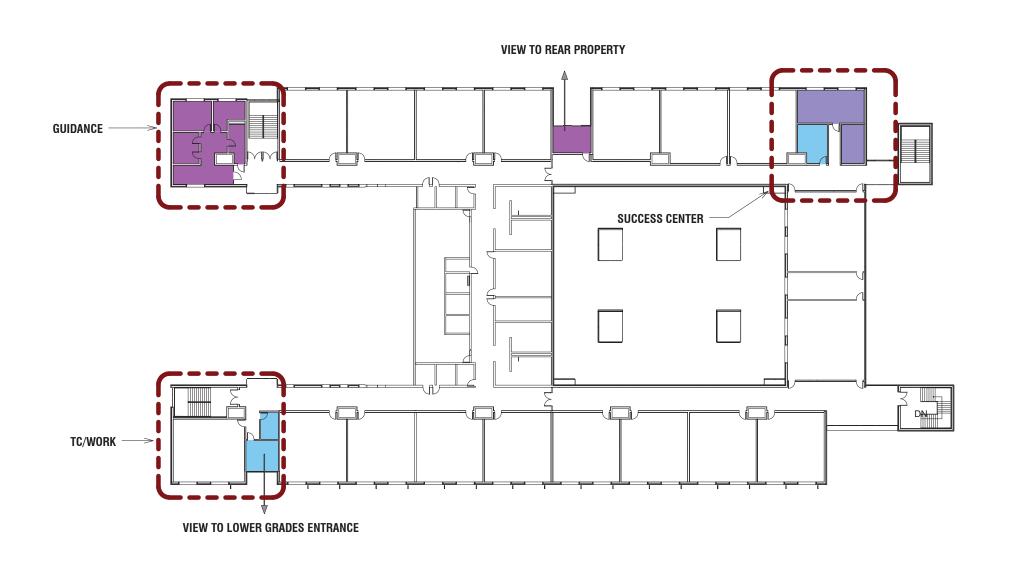


 Public Access and Security: The spaces that require public access for community, neighborhood and all school events (gymnasium, cafeteria and media center) are located off a common lobby near the front entrance, allowing the balance of the school to be cordoned off and secured.

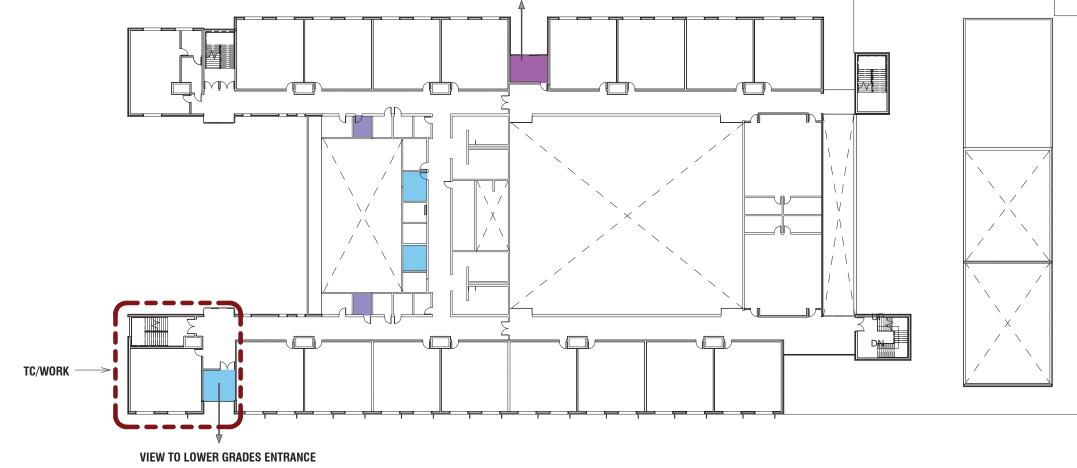


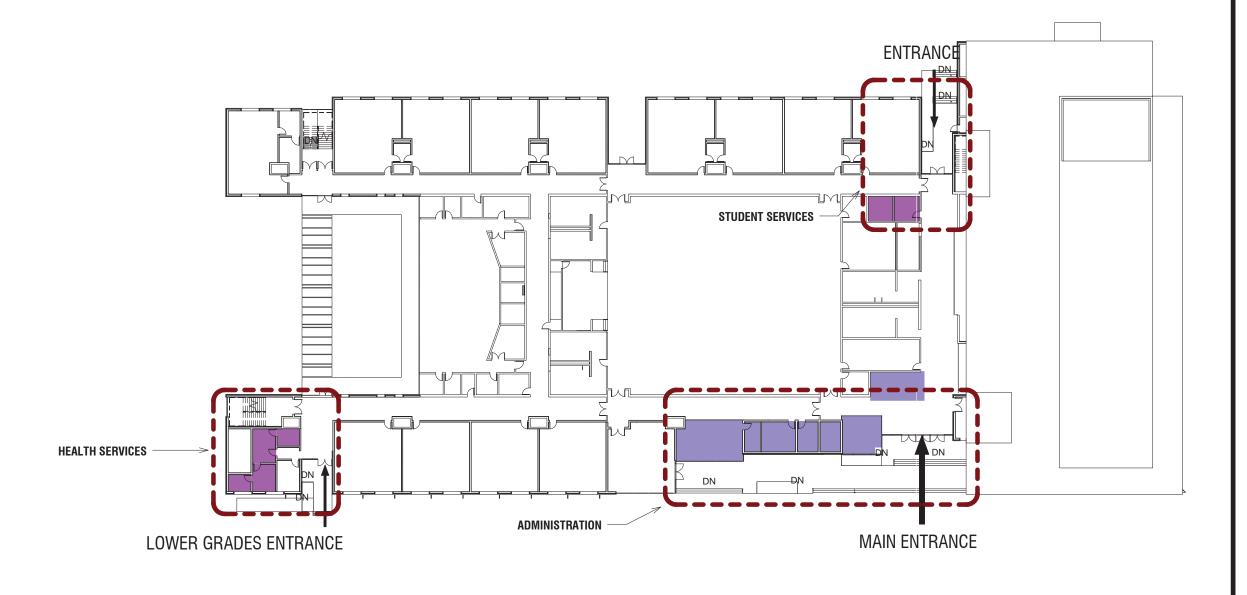
- Legible Entry and Access: The building's main entry is designed to be very legible to the public and not confusing as is the case with many public buildings. A covered entry and waiting area for drop off and pick up is adjacent to a main stair tower. Access to the school from the staff and public parking area on the north side is available either by entering the lobby/ cross corridor on the north side or along a covered walk across the cafeteria face of the building.
- Centrally Located Administration Suite:

The Welcome Center is adjacent to the entry at the center of the principal street façade for easy access and good visibility and control.







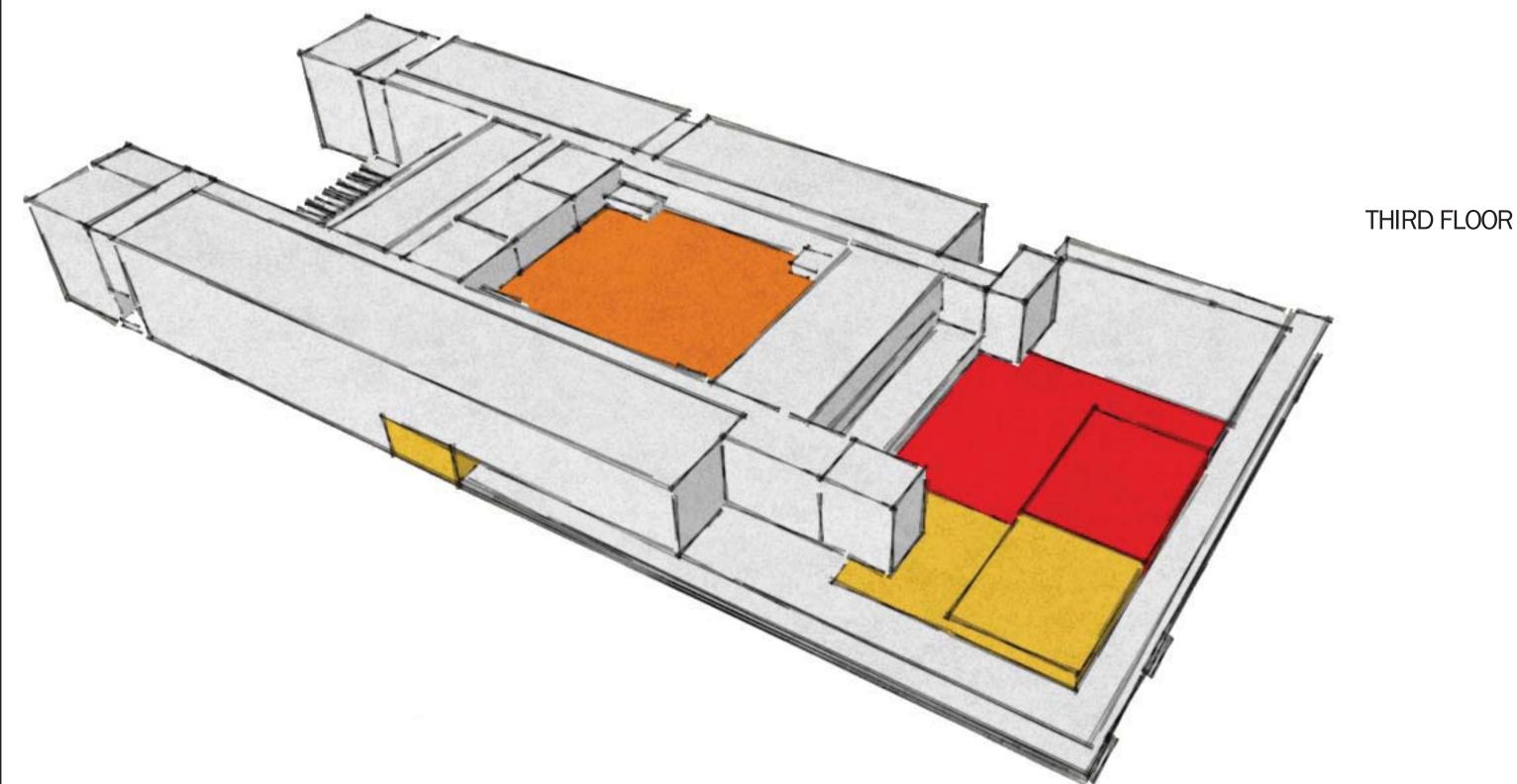


FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

## Gymnasium as Forum:

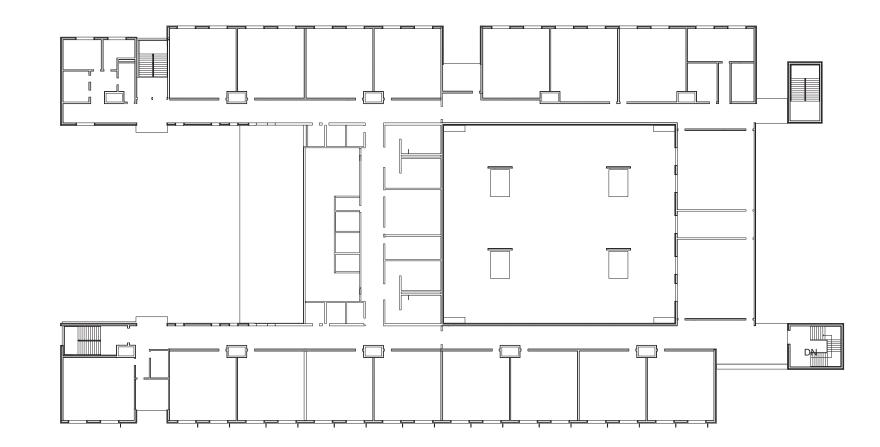
Much like an urban public open space or piazza defined by buildings, the large gymnasium, with a roof supported by trusses on masonry bearing walls, can

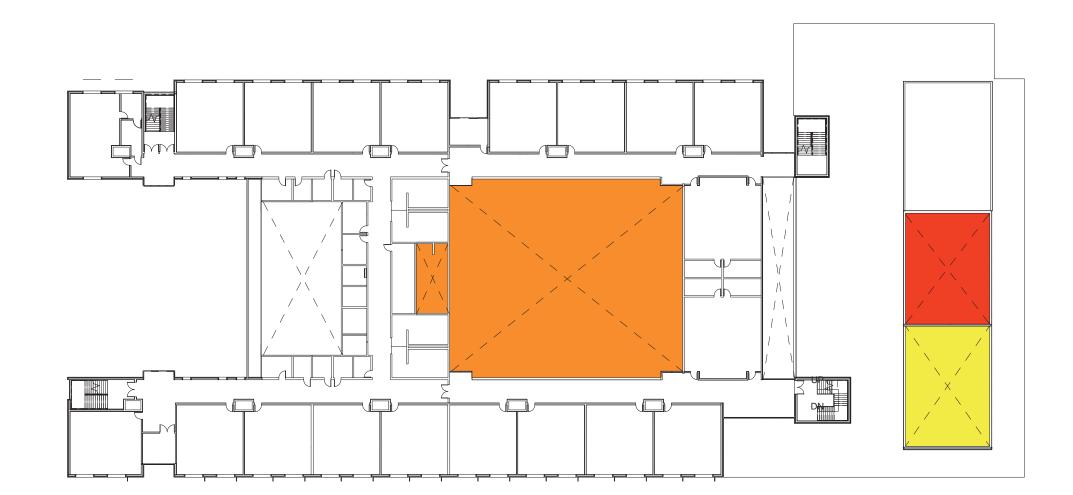


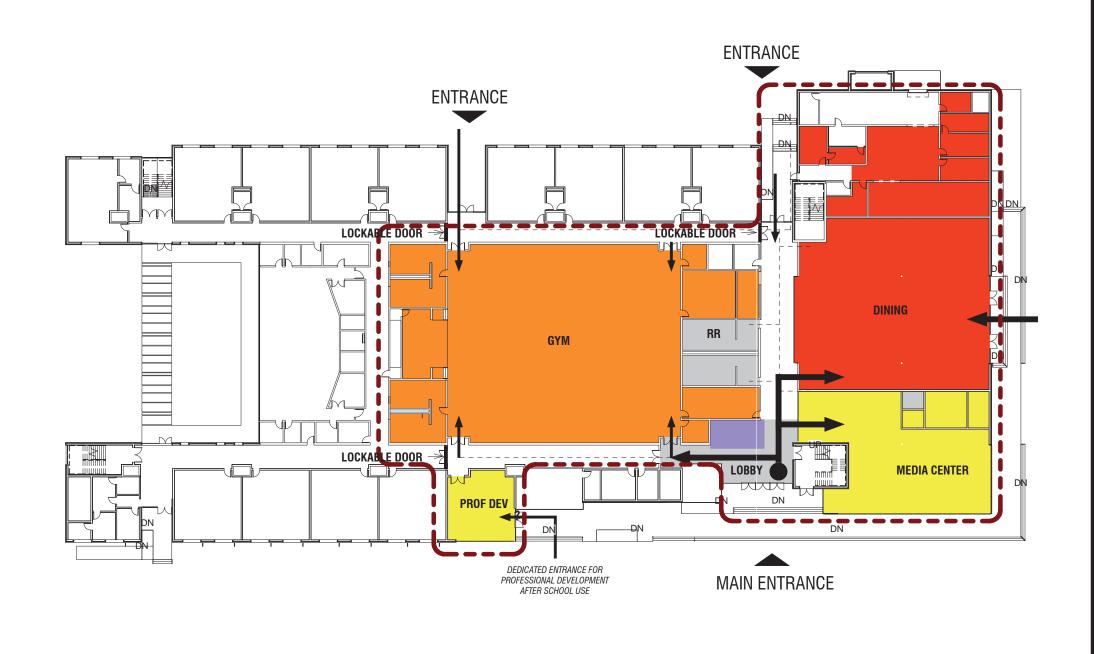
function as the true heart of the school being centrally located within the school and daylit by roof mounted clerestories. This generous space can act as a school and community forum where athletics, announcements, performances, special events and community meetings can take place.

• Cafeteria as Destination: Given New Orleans' rich food culture, dining is an important component of any school whether it be an elementary, middle, high school or university. The act of going to this important community function is heightened when it becomes a journey. It gives a rhythm to the day, a chance to get exercise, to walk and burn off energy and to assemble with children of other ages and grades.

SECOND FLOOR





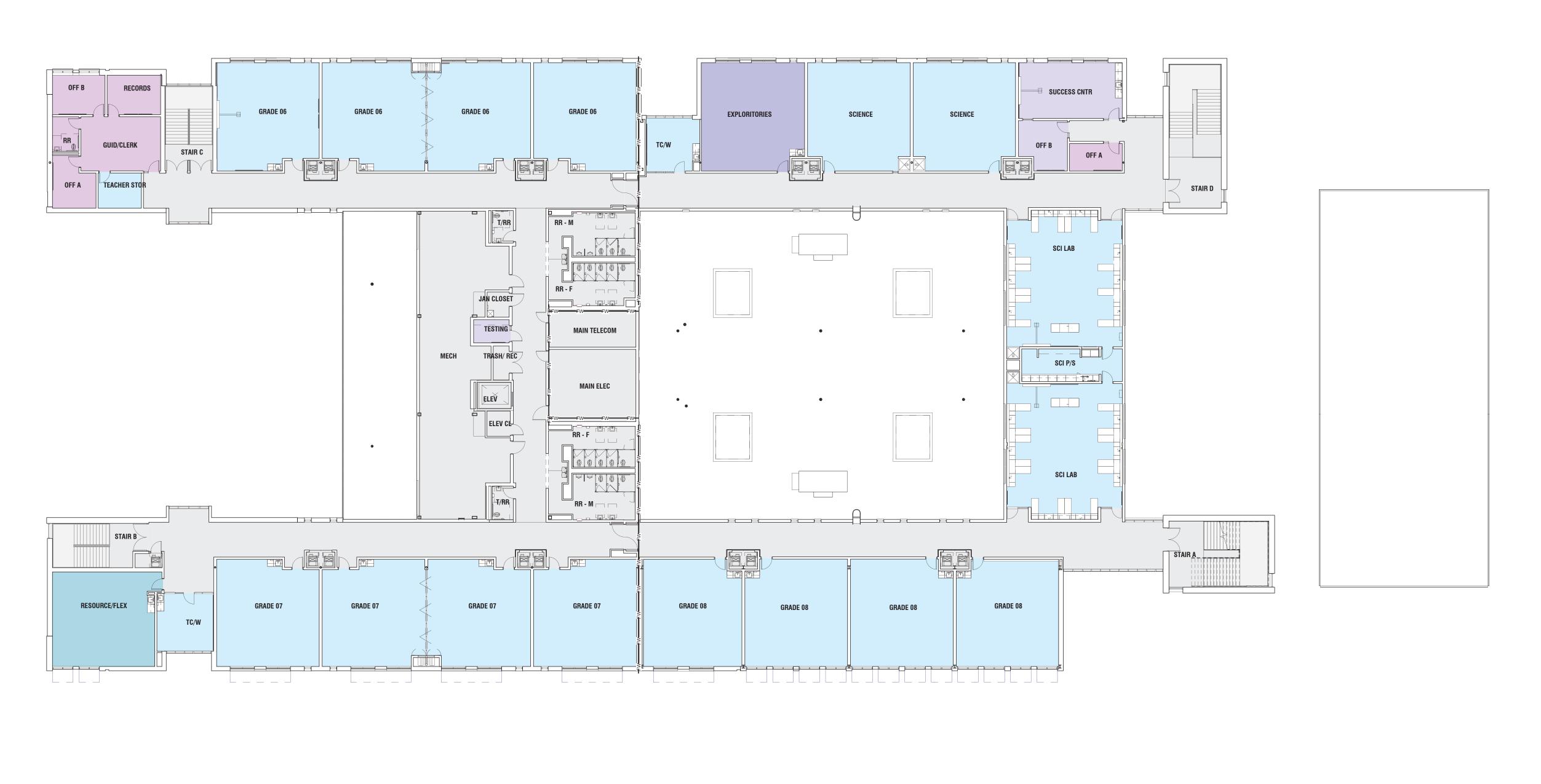


FIRST FLOOR

BUILDING SECTIONS | Waggonner & Ball Architects | ABRAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FIRST FLOOR PLAN Waggonner & Ball Architects
ABRAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PLAN | Waggonner & Ball Architects ABRAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SECOND



#### Department Legend

ADMIN/ WELCOME
BUILDING SUPPORT

CORE ACADEMIC
EXPLORITORIES

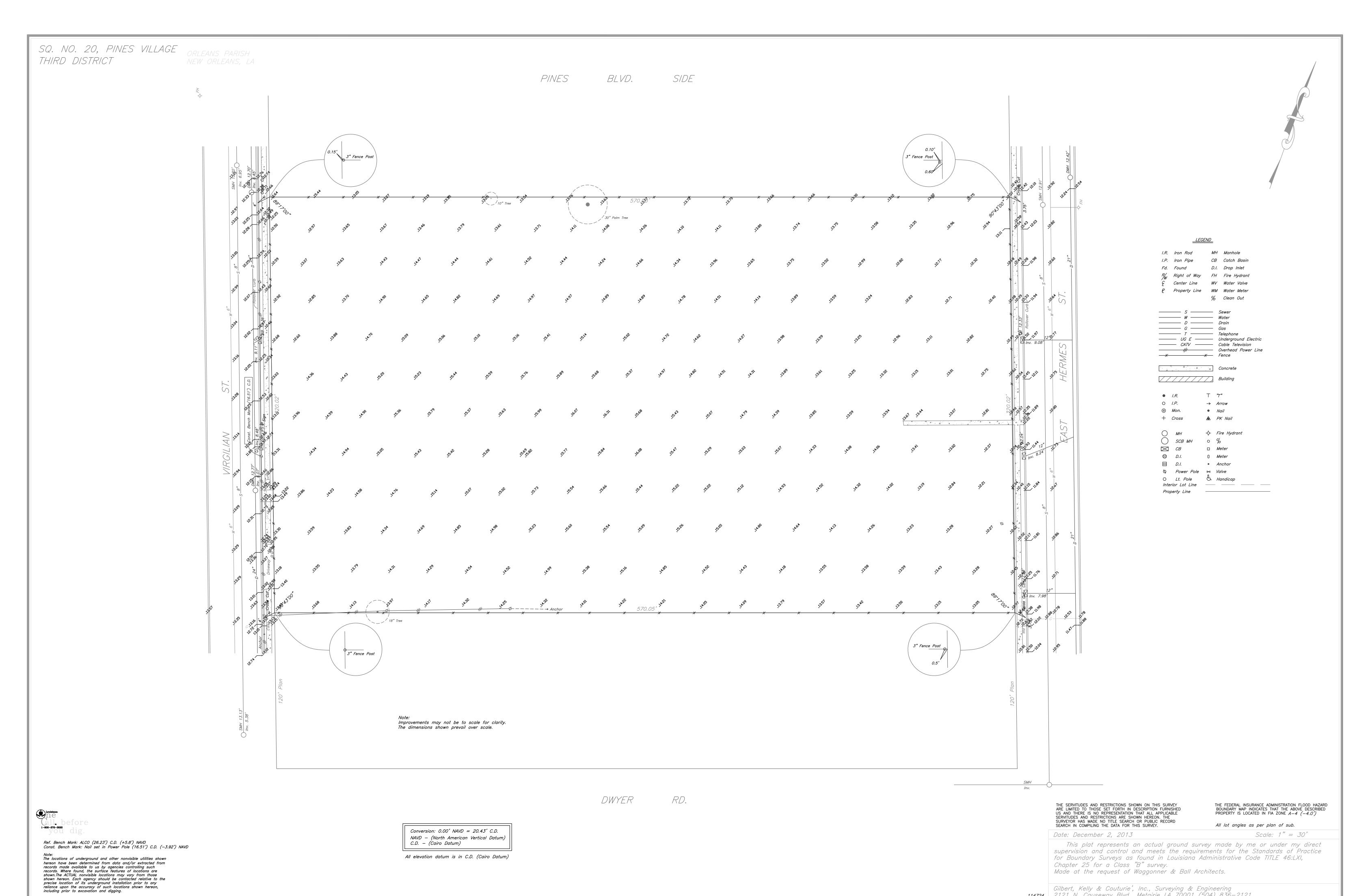
SPECIAL ED
STUDENT SERVICES

 $\frac{1}{A-301|P5}$  Third Floor Plan Diagram 1/16" = 1'-0"

ELEVATIONS | Waggonner & Ball Architects | ABRAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



RSD ABRAMS SCHOOL Waggonner & Ball Architects
ABRAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Gilbert, Kelly & Couturie', Inc., Surveying & Engineering 114724 2121 N. Causeway Blvd., Metairie LÁ 70001 (504) 836-2121

1" = 20'-0"

rchitects

<u>=</u>

 $\Box$ 

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Waggonne

CONSULTING ENGINEERS 909 POYDRAS STREET, SUITE 2150

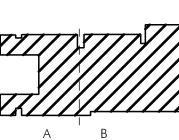
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70112-1034

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SHEET TITLE: ELECTRICAL SITE PLAN



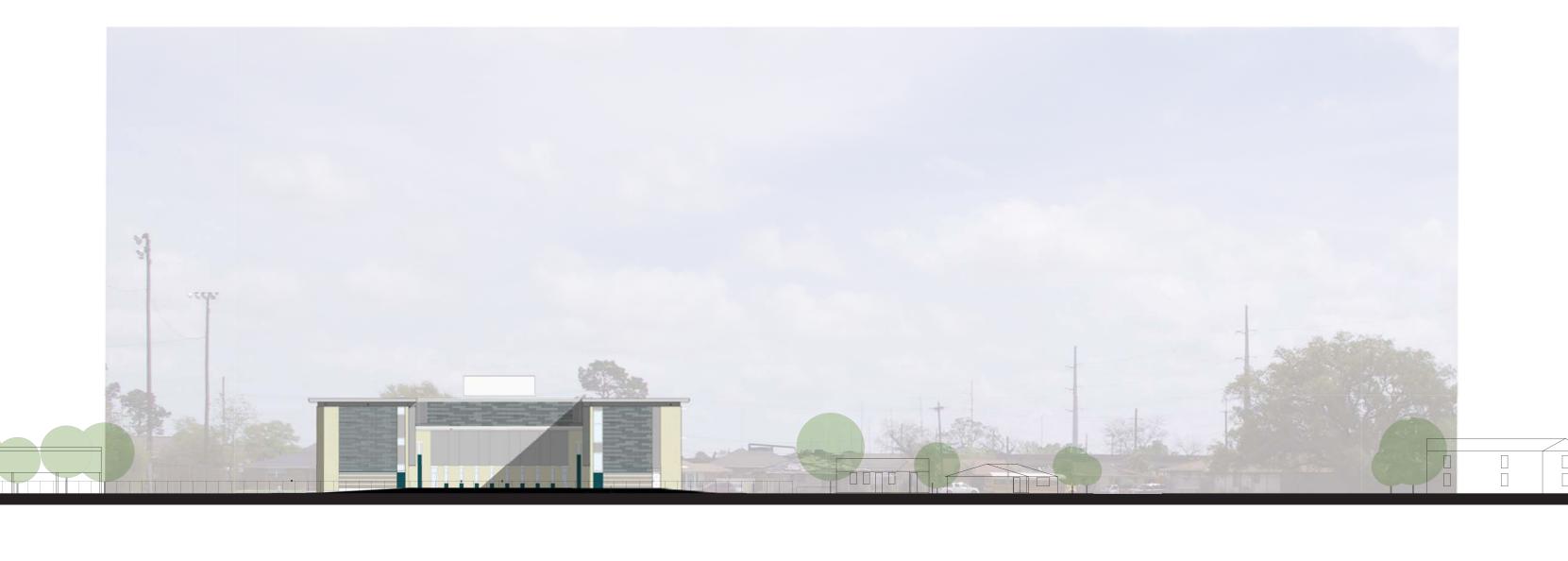
06/04/14 MT,BO DRAWN BY:

100% DESIGN DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENTS

FOR REVIEW ONLY NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

E-101





#### STREET ELEVATION\_VIRGILIAN



STREET ELEVATION \_E HERMES