

# TACOMA MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Tacoma Middle School is a great school that students would enjoy because unlike most schools Tacoma Middle School is made of domes. It has many unique classes. There is an under water science lab, three shops wood, auto, and metal shop. A bamboo garden, a green house and natural common areas are features that bring students back to nature. Passive lighting helps the school use less energy and for the energy it does need, it uses hydroelectricity. The mascot is a tiger because tigers are from different countries and, from a bird's eye view, the school looks like a tiger's paw.

Tacoma Middle School was going to be in a Japanese maple tree. Then it was discovered by some research that it wasn't going to be big enough, and there was no way that it would work to be able to have passive lighting and those kinds of things. That's when we decided to have domes which have the shape of the Japanese Maple tree. The school is made of four domes because it very unusual for a school to be dome shaped. So the school has 1 large dome for the main building which is two stories high and three smaller domes. The smaller domes, or annexes, are set up for grades—each grade has their main classes in the annexes. In each of the annexes there are light tubes that reflect into the class rooms. There are also Natural commons in the middle of the light tubes. The main building has not only the offices, but is also the place where students go for most of their electives.

The school has many unique class rooms. For example, it has an underwater science lab. The underwater science lab is for marine biology and aquatic studies. It will have several different species of fish and possibly eel. There are three shops metal shop, auto shop, and wood shop. Tacoma Middle School also a heated pool, exercise room, and green house.

Elevators and ramps are in the main building for the disabled, also there are escalators instead stairs. The escalators will be helpful for those people who would need assistance to go up stairs but who are not in wheelchairs. If for some reason the power goes out, then the escalators become just regular stairs. Also there will be buses for transportation to and from school also the students can walk or be dropped off or picked up by parents. For safety the school is made of shatter proof glass, and the annexes will all have 2 exits and the main building will have 5.

The bamboo garden is a feature most schools do not have. Not only for building materials, but it is also for the community to enjoy. Bamboo can be used for the furniture, walls, and floors. Another thing the school could use it for is science class experiments.

Passive lighting and hydro electricity are our way of saving energy and helping the earth. The dome is almost entirely made of glass. It is made of many triangular panes that bamboo strips hold together. We decided on many flat panes rather than one large glass dome because 1) it would be difficult to replace that large of a piece of glass and 2) glass that is rounded will magnify light and make it too hot or start fires whereas small flat pieces just let the natural light in. The teachers wouldn't have to use the lights as

much. Light tubes that are placed in the center of each annex reflect light into the class rooms. Hydro electricity would supply the energy we do need. Originally, we wanted the dam on school grounds but changed our minds because of the possibility of flooding. Now it is at least 100 feet away so our students could be safe.

Tacoma Middle School has rice cement for the parking lot. The rice husks added to a cement mixture doesn't pollute the earth as much as regular cement and is just as strong.

Every parent would love their child to go to Tacoma Middle School. It is one of the few middle schools to have a swimming pool. There are some specialized classes available here that a lot of schools don't have. The domes that have passive lighting and central commons make a natural atmosphere for the students to hangout in. It is the school of the future.