Telling our Story: Gardiner Middle School
SchoolsNEXT and School Design Process
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SchoolsNEXT

Team, Objectives, and Process
Diverse Cohort of Thirty-One 6th Grade Bilingual-Program Students
Encore Class Service Learning Project
Objectives

Express Creativity

Develop Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Communication, and Presentation Skills

Develop an Engaging Project-Based Learning Opportunity
Visioning ~ “Dream School”
Student/Teacher Surveys
Empathy Interviews
Precedent Research
Drawing
Model Building (1st Build)
Presentations
Process (Phase 2)

Concept and Theme Development

Model Refinement (2nd Build)

Development of Non-Negotiables and Belief Statements

Identification of Central Concept

Presentation
Theme: Promote, Encourage, and Support Healthy Lifestyles
Belief Statements

We believe in CONNECTING TO NATURE and the WORLD AROUND US.

Outside spaces encourage us to relax, feel healthy, and understand how our actions IMPACT OUR COMMUNITY and the world.

Spaces inside our school should BRING THE OUTSIDE IN, with beautiful natural views and light, so that when we are learning, we are reflecting and being productive.
We believe our environment should represent all students in developing ACTIVE BODIES, MINDS, AND SOULS.

Spaces should allow us to be still, to move, and help us to be ENGAGED and actively learning.

School spaces should feel like STUDENT SPACES and should accommodate our social needs and reflect our interests and work.

We want opportunities to share who we are and CONNECT with those that we love.

We should feel SAFE AND SECURE in our community with open sight lines, secure entrances, safe areas, and the ability to transition without stress.
Belief Statements

We believe that our programs and areas of study should promote an UNDERSTANDING AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE WORLD.

We want to TAKE CONTROL of our own learning through real-world experiences.

We need to CONNECT with mentors and trusted adult advisors that share their passions and assist us both in pursuing our interests and developing our future goals.
Student Outcomes

Improved public speaking

Engagement in own learning

Experience communicating with diverse groups

Opportunities to partner and socialize with architects, teachers, students, and School Board Members

Development of creative confidence

Real world learning

Math, reading, writing, advanced research skills
Development of communication, collaboration, research, writing, college & career readiness, STEM, and critical problem-solving skills

*Engaging and authentic learning experience*

Partnerships with resources outside the classroom

*Opportunities to celebrate hard work*

Pride!
More Model Refinement (4th build) - Timber Hall

3D printing of a typical learning neighborhood

7th grade SLA class with smaller group (26)

2020 SchoolsNext Competition - 6th & 7th grade

6th grade hoping to work with Landscape Architects to design school garden
Prioritize Safety and Security at Every School

Build secure entries at all schools
Replace aging emergency communications systems
Repair or replace aging security camera systems

Reduce Overcrowding, Replace & Upgrade Two Middle Schools

Replace Gardiner Middle School
Renovate Ogden Middle School
Eliminate portables

Update School Buildings & Learning Spaces

Renovate or replace HVAC systems, plumbing, roofs and electrical systems in schools across the district
Install LED lighting
Expand career and tech learning options
Expand classroom spaces
Opportunity: Rethink education at the middle level in Oregon City
How can we support this opportunity?
Part 1: Willingness and Commitment

Are we ready to jump off the deep end?
Part 2A: Engaging the Right Voices

District Leadership
Key Educators
Counselors
School Board Representation
Part 2B: Incorporating Student Voice

12 students (of 27 total)
Met separately to preview materials
Discuss how ideas might translate to real building project
Position students to advocate for positions and engage with adults
Part 3: Building on the Backs of Others

- Tours (9 schools in Tacoma, Portland, and San Diego)
- Virtual Tours
- Talking to Educators and Administrators Who’ve Done it
Part 4: Breaking Down the Problem

When you’re willing to rethink everything, it’s hard to know where to start
Part 5: Flexible Meeting Structure

It’s about pedagogy and professional development (not just architecture and design) . . .and the group may need time to come together.
Part 6: Articulating & Refining the Aspiration

What is the target?
What do we need to do to make it happen?
(It's not about where we are now)
Highlights/Overview of Current Building Design
Objectives

Promote development of healthy choices and habits

Give student opportunities to develop positive choices, healthy and productive decision-making

Drive student engagement

Support mental and emotional health

Facilitate positive relationships between students and adults