The “Vision” for the new Joplin High School was crafted by over 50 faculty, students, community, and district administration in a three day exploration with the design team of what the new high schools aspiration will be.

Create relationships and relevancy that inspires personalized innovation and achievement for continual transformation of our youth, staff and community.

To measure how the team could reach such a lofty vision the team created “Guiding Principles” to be used as the design process continued. These principles became the metric when making design decisions.

- Spirit of Exploration
- Connectedness
- Comfortable, Fun and Cool “Vibe” (student generated)
- Innovation for All
- Celebrate Success

The “Vision” team created one and two word personality traits for the new facility.

- Gathering Community
- Outside in
- No ‘hallways’
- Classroom outdoors
- Areas were “I belong”
- Whimsical
- Modern composition
- Apple-y
- A chance for every student to shine
- Expose life of the building

The sustainable goal of the school is “stick to the basics”. The sustainable strategies are to be environmentally responsive to the site and design efficient systems that are energy star or better. When possible take advantage of passive opportunities to be “green” such as the “rain water harvesting” gravity flow system for landscape irrigation.

This “Vision” paired with a “career pathway curriculum” defined the pedagogy for teaching and learning opportunities of the school. The opportunity for all 2,500 students to see advanced classes on display every day is the goal of the school. All the highly active project based classes occur on the main floor of all the five career pathways and the technical center visible through glass or open to a social commons, such as Eagle Alley where the entrepreneurial, creative and retail “pop up” activity can occur.

The school itself is broken into small learning environments that are dedicated to a career pathway and each environment is defined by “Archetypes” defined by Dr. David Thornburg in his book Campfires in Cyberspace, Primordial Metaphors for Learning in the 21st Century, and the Apple Education Leadership Summits.

The campfire...Storytelling as teaching, the classroom. As Robert Frost said, “We sit in the circle and suppose, while the truth sits in the center and knows.” However the classroom cannot stand alone.

The watering hole...Learning at the watering hole is less formal and peer to peer. So, each participant in these spaces are both learner and teacher.

The cave...To isolate one’s self or a small group to gain special insights or collaborate in a focused manner.

Spaces like the Mountain top, for the presentation of accomplishment and Laboratory for discovery are imbedded in each career pathway.

An over 230 page Design Manual become the resultant of this exhaustive design process.
CONCEPT

INTERTWINING GREEN SPACE WITH THE BUILDING TO BREAK DOWN THE SCALE AND CREATE CONNECTION TO OUTSIDE AND NATURAL LIGHT.
STUDENT EXPERIENCE
UTILIZING VERTICAL CONNECTION TO
REINFORCE STUDENT EXPLORATION

COLLABORATION + SOCIAL ZONES
DISTRIBUTION AND STACKING DIAGRAM
MAIN STUDENT ENTRY PLAZA

VISITOR ENTRANCE LOBBY
OPEN PROJECT LAB WITH DISPLAY + TECHNOLOGY SPACES

OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS