

2024 Exhibition of School
Planning and Architecture
Northeast Region

Easton Public Schools
Blanche A. Ames Elementary School

Easton Massachusetts

Blanche A. Ames Elementary School



Blanche A. Ames Elementary School

TARGET PLAY SF: 209,000 SF
PROPOSED PLAY SF: 223,000 SF



EASTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

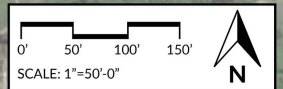
RICHARDSON OLMSTED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

COLUMBUS AVE.

SPOONER ST.

SHERIDAN ST.

LOTHROP ST.



Media Center Roof Deck Overlooking Front Entry

Community Environment:

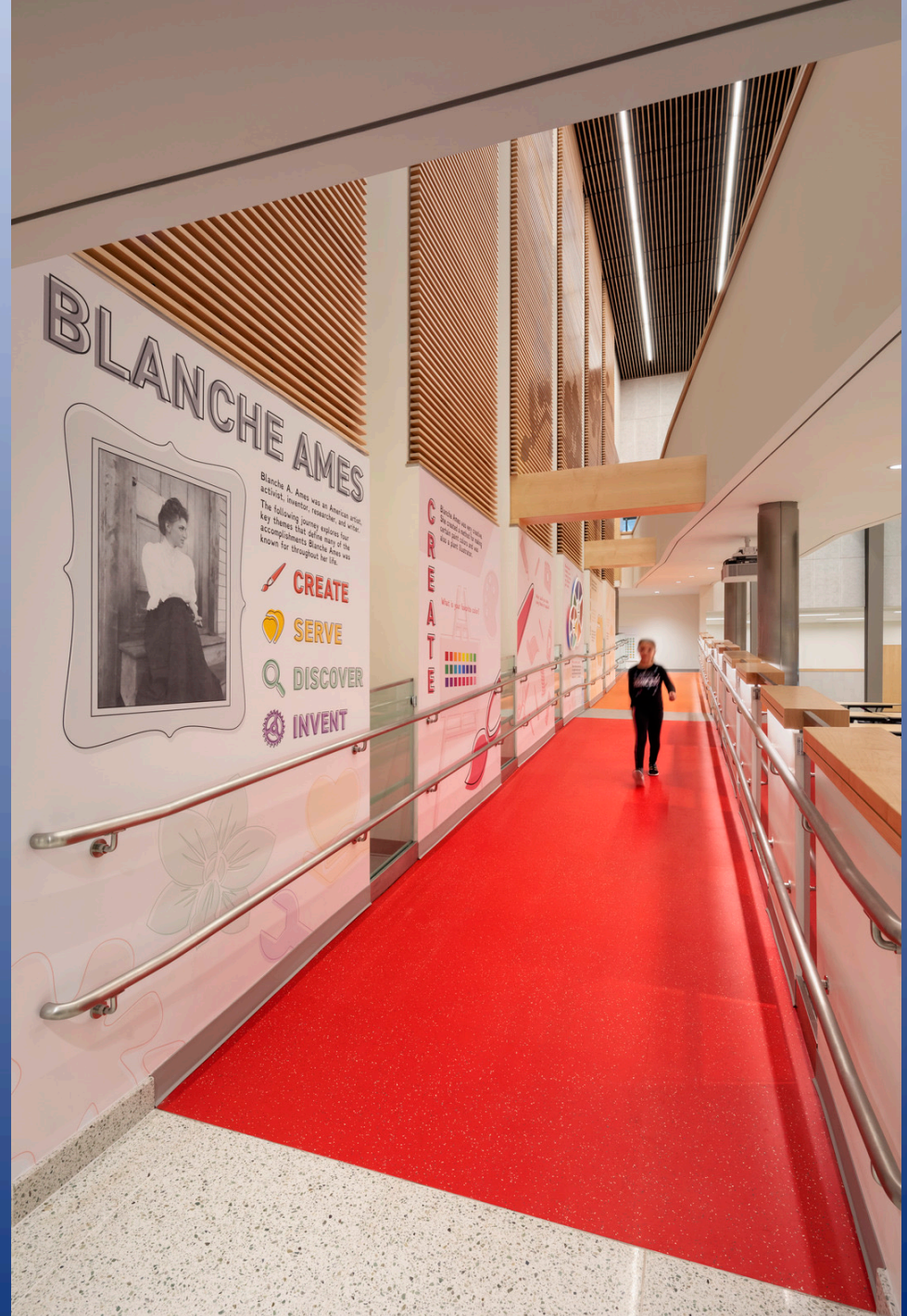
The Blanche A. Ames Elementary School in Easton, Massachusetts, consolidates three small PreK-2 schools into one. Naturally, the Town sought a school scaled to the needs of its young population. At 875 students, the massing of the building was to be inherently large. However, thoughtful interventions and strict adherence to design principles created safe, comfortable, and easily identifiable communities within the school.



Entrance to Central Ramp

Community Environment: A Celebration of Community and Heritage

The school namesake, Blanche A Ames (1878-1969), inspired the design inside and out. She was an artist, political activist, inventor, writer, and supporter of Women's suffrage. Her creativity, wisdom, and compassion are displayed throughout the school and reinforced by curriculum and architecture that supports student learning. Reflecting Ames and Easton: The Frothington Farmers, the Watershed Wanderers, the Borderland Trailblazers, and the Ames Adventurers are signified through supergraphics and color within their respective wings.



Flexible Learning Corridor

Learning Environment:

Fostering Creativity and Learning through Play

As we know, students ages 4-8 (PK-2 ages) learn through play and inquiry. The building design supports Easton's youngest learners as they Create, Care, Discover, and Invent each day through their journey in the building and campus as they learn through play. Flexible learning spaces are enhanced with technology, whiteboards, storage, and interactive STEM-focused interactive walls. Students can peep into classrooms through circular windows, sit in themed reading nooks, and play with interactive and tactile games up and down the central ramp.



View to Courtyard and Outdoor Garden

Learning Environment:

Outdoor Learning and Connections

Visual access to the outdoors is standard throughout the building and enhanced through age-appropriate, themed play space and the encouragement of movement. The Ames Adventure play integrates a walking club that utilizes and brings life to the bus loop for active children (and adults). The PK playground playfully reflects farmhouses and has a trike loop. The Nature Play at the front of the school highlights the rich natural elements of the community with a wood-like play structure surrounded by native landscaping. Outside the cafeteria sits a fenced raised bed garden. Finally, covered “front porches” create structure around a learning and sensory courtyard that boasts a music walk with outdoor instruments, a hide-and-seek courtyard, a butterfly meadow, herb gardens, and defined areas for structured learning.



Flexible Learning Corridors and Creative Circulation Stair

Physical Environment – Continued
Universal Transitions and
Age-Appropriate Scale

The overall Blanche Ames Early Elementary School design objective was to create a scaled and age-appropriate school for the Easton PK-2 student population. The layout of the building creates a small school feel and fosters identity for each grade through learning clusters of 3 to 4 classrooms, with PreK-K on the first floor and grades 1-2 on the second floor. The central ramp with tactile interactive activity weaves between two floors to create an age-appropriate education journey and transition for all students.



Central Ramp Interactive Opportunities

Physical Environment – Narrative Universal Transitions and Age-Appropriate Scale

The overall Blanche Ames Early Elementary School design objective was to create a scaled and age-appropriate school for the Easton PK-2 student population. The layout of the building creates a small school feel and fosters identity for each grade through learning clusters of 3 to 4 classrooms, with PreK-K on the first floor and grades 1-2 on the second floor. The central ramp with tactile interactive activity weaves between two floors to create an age-appropriate education journey and transition for all students.



Community Participation Drives Design

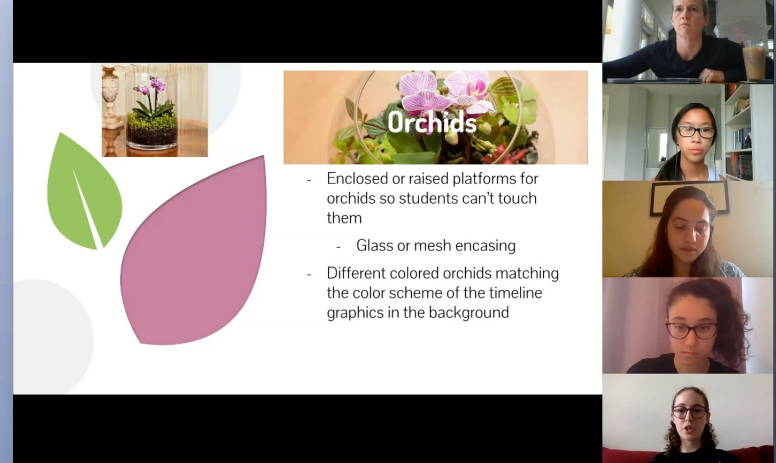
Planning Process: Narrative

The integrated design process involved students, educators, and administrators from start to finish. Within DD, they were part of defining the themes and helping those to evolve. By CDSs they are critiquing and modifying the experiential graphics.

As most of the project was designed during COVID much of these meetings were virtual which actually allowed for greater participation and will be a norm moving forward.

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

JULY 09, 2020



CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

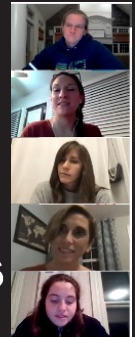
JULY 15, 2020



OCTOBER 15, 2020

Blanche A. Ames Elementary School Experiential Graphics

October 15, 2020



Community Participation Drives Design

Planning Process: Narrative

The integrated design process involved students, educators, and administrators from start to finish. Within DD, they were part of defining the themes and helping those to evolve. By CDSs they are critiquing and modifying the experiential graphics.

As most of the project was designed during COVID much of these meetings were virtual which actually allowed for greater participation and will be a norm moving forward.



GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

MARCH 30, 2021



April 15, 2021



May 20, 2021



Media Center Maker Space

Revolutions in Learning



Media Center Learning with Professional Development Beyond

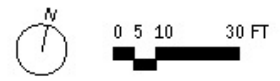
Revolutions in Learning



First Floor Plan



- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. MAIN ENTRY | 5. GYMNASIUM | 9. COMMUNITY ROOM | 13. OFFICES |
| 2. ADMIN & NURSE | 6. KITCHEN & SERVERY | 10. MUSIC CLASSROOM | 14. CENTRAL ADMIN OFFICES |
| 3. MAIN CAFETERIA | 7. CUSTODIAL & RECEIVING | 11. PRE-K & K CLASSROOM | 15. SENSORY GARDEN |
| 4. PLATFORM | 8. SECONDARY CAFETERIA | 12. SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM | 16. COMMUNITY GARDEN |



Second Floor plan



17. BLANCHE A. AMES RAMP
18. MEDIA CENTER & MAKERSPACE
19. DISCOVERY TERRACE
20. MECHANICAL ROOM

21. GRADE 1 & 2 CLASSROOM
22. SMALL GROUP ROOM
23. SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM
24. FLEXIBLE LEARNING BREAKOUT AREA

25. ART CLASSROOM
26. OFFICES



0 5 10 30 FT

A graphic scale bar with four segments, labeled 0, 5, 10, and 30 FT.

Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Project Data

Submitting Firm :	Perkins Eastman
Project Role	Architect
Project Contact	Dawn Guarriello
Title	Associate Principal
Address	20 Ashburton Place
City, State or Province, Country	Boston, MA
Phone	

Joint Partner Firm:	
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

Planner on Record:	
Name	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	
Email	

Construction Firm:	Brait Builders Corporation
Project Role	Construction Manager
Project Contact	Gary Brait
Title	Lead Superintendent
Address	57 Rockwood Road – Suite 3
City, State or Province, Country	Marshfield, MA 02050
Phone	781-837-6400

Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Project Details

Project Name	Blanche A Ames Elementary School
City	Easton
State	Massachusetts
District Name	Easton Public Schools
Supt/President	Lisha Cabral
Occupancy Date	January 2023
Grades Housed	PK-2
Capacity(Students)	875 (760K-2, 115 PreK)
Site Size (acres)	6.5 acres
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	128k GSF
Per Occupant(pupil)	143 GSF/Pupil
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
Project Costs	
If no,	
Site Development:	\$8,011,660
Building Construction:	\$55,983,431
Fixed Equipment:	\$1,998,753
Other:	\$9,687,108
Total:	

Supporting/Supplemental files/Images

(limit 5)

Central Ramp, Cafeteria
with Gymnasium Beyond
Physical Environment - Continued



the wall above!
played in honor of
her amazing
and botany.

2nd Grade Flexible Learning

Physical Environment - Continued



Media Center Maker Space

Physical Environment - Continued



Media Center Learning with Professional Development Beyond Physical Environment - Continued



PreK Play Space

Physical Environment - Continued

