

DALLAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**BRYAN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL**

## Thriving through expanded access...

Dallas ISD's driving mission behind a **cohesive redesign** of the historic Bryan Adams High School (est 1957) aims squarely at **injecting a forward-looking, reinvigorating spark that encourages a sense of belonging and community engagement.**

Pedagogy and design come together to provide distinct opportunities for a diverse student body to thrive through public education with **universal access to tech-integrated labs, leadership programming, early college accreditation, performance spaces, and redesigned, state-of-the-art sports facilities.**

## ... to nurture tomorrow's leaders.

Ambitious, forward-looking, and the **first of its kind in Dallas,** BA houses all school choice pathways under one roof: **a math academy, college prep for students looking for careers in either education and criminal justice, an extensive fine art and sports program, and early career and technical education with no barrier to entry.**

The design process for Bryan Adams High School brought together administrators, teachers, students, parents, and the community eager to participate in envisioning a school designed to **provide an education for the whole student, whatever their path, to fulfill the cougar motto: "100% of Bryan Adams students will graduate with the confidence and skills to seek and solve complex problems of the world."**



## PROJECT GOALS

- 1 Boost Well-Being Through The Arts & Athletics
- 2 Flexible Spaces & Environments For Collaborative Groups
- 3 Reflect the Unique School Spirit & Diverse Student Body

## SCOPE OF WORK & BUDGET

OWNER: **DALLAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

LOCATION: **DALLAS, TEXAS**

GRADES SERVED: **9-12**

CAPACITY OF STUDENTS/OCCUPANTS: **2,215 STUDENTS**

SIZE OF SITE: **25 ACRES**

GROSS AREA OF BLDG./SPACE: **289,064 GSF**

PROJECT COST: **\$58,810,600** INCLUDING DEMO & FFE

OCCUPATION DATE: **AUGUST 8TH, 2022**



## VISION AND GOALS UNIFIED

Originally built in 1957 for 800 students, the school now serves a diverse student body of over 2,200 students. Bryan Adams had undergone years of small scale renovations to the school until an expansive 2015 bond initiative finally provided the opportunity to realize a comprehensive, unified vision:

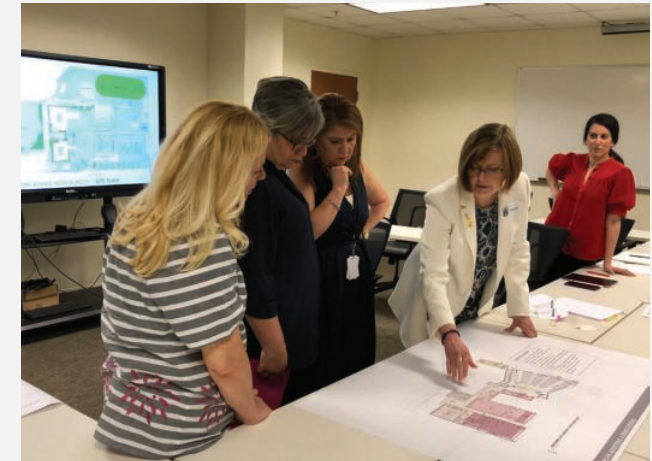
- **Reconfigured, Street Facing Entrance**
- **Secured Vestibule** controls access to the main corridor
- **Two-Story Administration And Classroom Addition and Media Center**
- **The Fine Arts Addition:**
  - State-of-the-art black box theater;
  - Costume and scene shop,
  - New band, orchestra, and choral classrooms, practice rooms, offices, and storage
- **Auditorium Renovation**
  - Theatrical lighting; AV systems
  - Stage rigging & curtains
  - Control booth
  - Stage floor
- **The Athletics Addition:**
  - Competition gymnasium that also serves as a storm shelter
  - Weight, mat, and training rooms
  - Upgraded locker rooms for girls and boys sports
- **Renovation And Reconfiguration Of Existing Space Allowed For New Special Education (Sped) Classrooms**
  - Special attention to acoustics throughout school
  - Sustainability upgrades: compact footprint, plumbing, HVAC
  - Removal of the existing band hall and north gym created space for the additions.
- **Wayfinding Package:** perfect moment to organize student flows while reflecting school spirit, student body, and shared history while maintaining safety and security.

## THE COMMUNITY WITHIN

The design team worked **closely with the stakeholders** and conducted exhaustive surveys to determine the best use of district **resources, renovations, and major additions.**

### STAKEHOLDERS

District Administrators  
Teachers  
Staff  
Parents  
Students  
Community Members



*Left Images:* Our architectural team had the opportunity to engage with the Bryan Adams Academy of Engineering and Biomedical Sciences student group. Academy students worked in BIM software to generate their ideal Bryan Adams redesign. In addition to the bond programmatic elements, they included designs for an upperclassmen overlook, a student run culinary academy food truck, and a new on site competition swim complex.



## PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE **AT PLAY**

Bryan Adams High School Leadership Academy is located in northeast Dallas in the Casa View neighborhood. The school **sits in a bustling urban area** just east of White Rock Lake — one of Dallas' most visited parks.

The neighborhood's population has grown and shifted over time. An important goal for the project is to provide a **fresh sense of identity that pays tribute to the school's history, reflects local heritage, and sees a future for all students.**

A strong **tradition of conservation, outdoor life, and community involvement** inform a desire for an education that calls on students to **ask critical questions, explore new ideas, and become leaders.** Bryan Adams offers an exciting academic program designed to prepare today's students to become tomorrow's capable leaders by developing their intellectual, moral, social, and emotional skills. BA, as it is affectionately called, **is now a district hub for innovative learning and incubator partnerships** to offer students **rigorous academics, in-class leadership opportunities, and extracurricular activities.**

## AN EDUCATION FOR THE **WHOLE STUDENT**

- ➔ Boost Well-Being Through The Arts & Athletics
- ➔ Flexible Spaces & Environments For Collaborative Groups
- ➔ Reflect the Unique School Spirit & Diverse Student Body



# LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

## BOOSTING WELL-BEING FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Maximized daylight drawn into the school, reduced noise, open space to move, and clear visibility make it possible for students to easily interact and feel connected—and **feeling connected** to peers, teachers, and the school itself leads to **reduced anxiety and more peace of mind**.

Planning and designing for wellbeing centers every student and teacher in order to build intrinsic motivation, decrease disciplinary problems, increase academic achievement, improve school satisfaction and lead to flourishing of individuals and communities. **Simply put, students who feel better can learn better.**

## NATURAL LIGHT THROUGH AND THROUGH

BA's newly connected footprint brings the outside in: **daylight floods through walls of windows created by the school's double courtyard configuration**. Windows lining two story additions draw light into the classrooms while also **providing long sightlines of old growth oaks and rolling hills**.

Additionally, the quality of classroom lighting can be further controlled with dimmers and shades to reduce glare. Eliminating glare on walls and desks make the **space visually comfortable for teachers and staff for lessons that can be easily seen**.

## CONNECTED TO NATURE AND ONE ANOTHER

At every opportunity, windows open views across corridors, communal spaces, and to the outdoors creating vital connection to one another and the surrounding environment. An open view to others learning in a variety of spaces allow for **flexible extension into common spaces for collaboration and innovative discovery**.

## SPACE TO HEAR YOUR OWN THOUGHTS

Specific **attention to acoustics throughout the building allows an environment conducive to concentration and comfort for diverse dispositions and learning styles**. Layered ceilings and flooring (absorbing sound); Lined ducts and low velocity air distribution reduce distracting noise and vibration.

## FLEXIBLE PROJECT AREAS

**The media center includes a maker space where whole classes or small groups can break out for special projects**. Light, comfortable furniture is easily moved into configurations that suit any group size around monitors, computers, or into quiet corners to accommodate the creativity and task at hand.

Similarly, students in music and theater programs can **reconfigure their space to suit ensemble size and theater production**. Sewing costumes to constructing sets is a fluid where equipment is easily stowed or put into use.



## PERFORMING ARTS SHOWING UP AND SHOWING OUT!

Previously, the Bryan Adams High School theater and music programs inhabited an oversized portable building. **Dallas ISD set a vision to become the best urban District in the United States placing Fine Arts at center stage.** Access to professional grade performance and rehearsal spaces give students an immersive experience in music, theater, and dance.

Boisterous performance and studied precision mark the fine arts addition. A redesigned auditorium showcases music, dance, and theater programs through finely tuned attention to acoustics, durable floors, and plenty of seating.

Backstage crews work in flexible, accommodating costume and scene shops. **Reconfigurable and moveable tables, chairs, and equipment allow for an area easily focused for planning and design for the season's show.**

A new 3,500 square foot state-of-the-art Black Box theater features a tech enriched sound booth, rigging, and lighting controls.



“ **The arts are an essential element of education,** just like reading, writing and arithmetic... music, dance, painting, and theater are **all keys that unlock profound human understanding and accomplishment**”. —William Bennett, former Secretary of Education



## MUSIC TO MY EARS SUPERIOR ACOUSTICS

Performance spaces are defined by sound *and* feel. **Embracing psychoacoustics**, designers carefully planned for the clarity and feeling of sound. Durable floors; baffled, lined and insulated with acoustical panels; and a ceiling that appropriately absorbs and reflects work in concert for superior acoustics.

**Audience members are treated to performances in a beautiful space uninterrupted by uncontrolled outside noise.**

## ATHLETICS GAME TIME!

Boosting well-being—physical, social, emotional—through Bryan Adams' athletics program calls for sports facilities featuring updated an weight room, mat room, training and locker rooms, and offices for coaching staff.

The athletics addition is crowned with a competition gymnasium that both supports pride and safety as it doubles as a storm shelter capable of accommodating the entire student body and all campus staff.



## A **PROUD** FRONT DOOR

A new entry plaza provides proud, focused street visibility for an established school with solid roots growing and transforming with its local population. **The campus redesign tips its hat to the school's original mid-century structure while tying together an expansive, formerly disjointed footprint into a cohesive configuration**, reinforcing a sense of discovery and inclusion for 2,200 students. Moments of modern geometric shapes in concert with mid-century elements express **the school's dynamic spirit at play with the past, present, and future.**



## MARKING THE WAY

Three additions round the campus into circular configuration vastly improving movement throughout while maximizing a buildable area on a smaller footprint. Marking the way through the school is an opportunity to inspire, set a student at ease within the building, reinforce an openness to learning, establish a sense of community, and extend an invitation to engage in a school where the next generation molds its own path.

### WE ARE THE COUGARS!

Cultural touchpoints come to life throughout the building with signage, custom logos, and wall graphics, celebrating the school's inclusive cougar spirit, a robust marching band and music program, and notable athletic achievement. Upon entering the reception area, students and visitors are greeted by a large map of Dallas with Bryan Adams at the center, representing the school's context and significance within the community. Concentric circles radiate from the center depicting the greater East Dallas area. A colossal representation of the school's mascot welcomes patrons to the media center. Superimposed upon text, the mascot helps recount the history of the school and the story of its namesake.

### MOVEMENT AND TRANSITION

As students move throughout the building and the school day, graphics with energetic color and composition mark transition from core curriculum to extra-curricular activity. From math, science and language arts to band, athletics, and fine arts, graphics, colors, and textures located in the fine arts and athletics lobbies help students to mentally transition from quiet focused learning to more dynamic, vibrant group activities.

### SAFE AND SECURE

Large open areas with long lines of sight and clear signage settle students into a space that is welcoming, safe, and orderly.





## MEET US AT THE **GAME!**

BA's new front door also extends to an outdoor entrance to all athletics—**fans, parents, students, and the community as a whole travel up the northwest side of the campus along a clearly marked and lit path to a ticket booth and stadium spaces.** The sports program at BA is anchored and represented by two old growth trees on either side of the courtyard welcoming spectators to the game.



Targeted investment in BA's long, storied athletics program included renovations to baseball and softball diamonds, new roofing to dugouts, and new turf grass for track and field. **Athletes play on fields embedded within their natural environment—baseball diamonds back into tree-lined perimeters and landscaping marked with native grasses and plant life extend and lead visitors** through courtyards that open to the football field and tennis courts.

# SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

Keying in on Dallas’s mission to **implement strategic initiatives to conserve energy, foster sustainable habits, and enhance the learning environment.** Sustainability strategies employed include a high-efficiency building envelope and mechanical systems, focused use of low-VOC paired with recycled and recyclable materials, updated mechanical systems to enhance indoor air quality; and energy-efficient LED lighting fixtures all work together for **healthy learning spaces for students and staff.** Low flow plumbing and landscape improvements serve conservation efforts on this 2015 Texas CHPS compliant campus.





BEFORE



AFTER

## RESULTS OF PLANNING PROCESS & PROJECT

### A COMPREHENSIVE DESIGN...

Bryan Adams High School Leadership Academy **embodies Dallas ISD's and the community's vision** for a well-rounded 21st-century education that supports collaborative, hands-on, project and inquiry-based learning. **The school fosters discovery for each young person** whose education is supported with access to tech-integrated labs, flexible classrooms that enhance leadership programming, early college accreditation, career training programs, professional-grade performance spaces, and redesigned, state-of-the-art athletics facilities.

The design process brought together administrators, teachers, students, parents, and the community eager to participate in envisioning a school designed to provide an education for the whole student to fulfill the cougar motto:

***"100% of Bryan Adams students will graduate with the confidence and skills to seek and solve complex problems of the world."***

### SPARKING TOMORROW'S LEADERS