Gearing Up for New Curriculum

1. **New student quad**
   with shaded outdoor dining spaces
   encourages student and community gathering

2. **STEAM courtyard**
   supports outdoor learning

3. **Protected outdoor space**
   augments the Maker and Art Labs

4. **Refreshed Administration, Family and Student Support Services**
   welcomes students and the community

5. **Stairs adjacent to new Music Building**
   serve as amphitheater for performance and gathering

6. **Learning Commons**
   with reimagined library for next generation

**Legend:**
- Red: Renovation
- Beige: New
- Gray: Not in contract
- Blue: Relocation
1 **Outdoor art + maker space**
for 3D art and hands-on building

2 **Four flexible wet labs**
surround a central resource and student breakout space with direct access to learning courtyards

3 **Daylit art + maker spaces**
are large to support project-based learning

4 **Locker rooms**
are placed strategically near the playfields and promote school pride to the community through a mural on the exterior

5 **New music building**
extends to the outdoors with a roll-up door connecting it to the STEAM Quad
CONTEXT
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ROOTS

STEAM curriculum-specific additions and full renovation of the existing buildings transformed the aging buildings into a source of neighborhood pride.
Stairs adjacent to the new Music Room serve as an amphitheater for performance and gathering.
Reinvigorated classrooms support multi-modal and simultaneous learning activities.

Day-lit learning spaces enhance performance and well-being.

Student interaction improves learning outcomes for all.
Community input played a critical role in determining the future educational mission.

Big changes are challenging.

Adoption of STEAM curriculum excited staff + community and sparked full engagement in the planning process.

Hundreds turned out to celebrate the grand opening.
LEARNING COMMONS
ALIGNING WITH NEXT GENERATION LEARNER INTERESTS

The learning commons, with soft + flexible furnishings is a student gathering place.
Flexible performing arts and associated storage spaces support Music activities.

Performing Arts

Rounding Out the STEAM Curriculum
MAKER SPACES
SUPPORTING A VARIETY OF LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Small group breakout spaces + technology support student collaboration and engagement.
Roll-up doors provide natural daylight and expand the learning environment.

SPACES IN-BETWEEN
CONNECTING TO THE OUTDOORS
STEAM SPACES
INTEGRATED APPROACH

Whiteboard walls + flexible furnishings support next generation learning.
Project Narrative (page 1)

Full STEAM Ahead: Transforming an Existing Elementary School into a STEAM-focused Middle School

Sylvan Middle School is more than 60 years old...and it showed. After careful condition assessment and analysis, San Juan Unified School District determined that the school was past its useful life and needed to be replaced. But how to replace it? Sylvan shared a large site with the adjacent Citrus Heights Elementary School on a prominent corner in the City of Citrus Heights. The elementary school, and another nearby, were both well under their desired and efficient capacity, but were facilities with very “good bones.” The decision to combine those two elementary schools at the off-site location freed up the on-site elementary school to become the reimagined Sylvan Middle School.

Community and staff concerns were real; their beloved middle school was closing, and they were being asked to believe a down-at-the heels elementary school could be transformed into an inspiring middle school. This kind of change is hard, and many in the community, especially the teachers, reacted with skepticism. But the design team engaged the entire Sylvan faculty, as well as representative students, community leaders and parents, in the crafting of the educational vision that would guide them through the design process, resulting in a revitalized facility could truly support the next generation learning opportunities they had identified as important.

Beginning with the STEAM acronym—Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math—as the point of departure, the design team used inspirational photos and renderings, virtual tours of comparable spaces and furniture “test drives” to stimulate dialogue. The project team held regular staff meetings—at the global and at the individual level—throughout the project’s design and documentation phases to encourage brainstorming, capture ideas, and assure staff their suggestions would be fully considered and their concerns addressed.

Once the community decided to adopt the STEAM curriculum for Sylvan, faculty and staff leveraged the opportunity afforded by the school move to change the old pedagogy. They began by pioneering the new curriculum at their existing site while planning for the new site was occurring. They held a STEAM night to teach the community about the STEAM curriculum, and ongoing tours of the campus inspired everyone. This helped to both inform the design process and to prime students and staff, readying them to take full advantage of the new campus on Day One.

What ultimately emerged through the engaging and collaborative process was a plan for reinvigorating existing classrooms, improving administrative, student and community services spaces, and adding a new Learning Commons along with specialty spaces for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math designed to facilitate the STEAM-based curriculum the site planning committee had embraced.
The break from the original finger plan grid signals the new educational direction and allows for the creation of the variety of outdoor gathering—and learning—opportunities key to supporting the new curriculum. The Learning Commons departs from the traditional library design, shifting the emphasis from books and quiet individual work to diversified learning opportunities and active, project-based learning. Throughout the learning environments, movable and comfortable furnishings allow for easy reconfiguration, while a robust campus wireless network and access to outdoor courtyard spaces support the next generation learning that happens here.

The faculty and staff value the role Sylvan, the only middle school in Citrus Heights, plays in shaping the future of the community. The revitalized campus entry has enhanced the public’s impression of the new campus and welcomes them in to take advantage of the enhanced administrative, student and family resource services provided there.

Adjacent to the new STEAM Quad, Art and Maker Lab spaces share a building and a protected outdoor learning environment for 3D art and "building things." Inside the building, a central, glass-walled space houses the computers that drive the 21st century equipment, including plasma cutters and 3D printers. Four science learning environments are organized around a central STEM Studio which supports the labs with space for small group student work and a glass garage door that opens directly on to the quad. Teachers envisioned their Robotics program in this space—robots racing from inside to out, up and down the STEAM quad, past the student garden and back again. A flexible Music Room, with a roll-up door to an outdoor amphitheater and performance space, rounds out the STEAM program.

Sustainable design strategies are expected in next generation schools so the design team employed strategies including daylighting, natural ventilation and water-wise landscaping practices throughout. Completed just in time for the 2016-2017 school year, enrollment has grown, and the new Sylvan Middle School is moving full STEAM ahead.
The initial project budget was $15.5 million, however the client requested approximately $4 million in scope changes and add value items, resulting in a final project budget of $19.5 million.
# Project Details

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Project Name</td>
<td>Sylvan Middle School: A STEAM Focused Transformation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. District Name</td>
<td>San Juan Unified School District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. City/State</td>
<td>Citrus Heights, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Superintendent</td>
<td>Kent Kern</td>
</tr>
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<td>5. Occupancy Date</td>
<td>August 2016</td>
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<td>6. Grades Housed</td>
<td>6-8</td>
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<td>7. Design Capacity (# of students)</td>
<td>800 students</td>
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<td>8. Site Size (acres)</td>
<td>28 acres</td>
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<td>9. Gross Area (Sq. Ft.)</td>
<td>New: 20,845 square feet, Renovated: 23,458 square feet</td>
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<td>10. Space per Pupil (Gross)</td>
<td>55 square feet per pupil for the project-specific spaces; 65 square feet for pupil including spaces not part of project</td>
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</table>

**Design Build (Y/N)?** No

**If yes, Total Costs**

**If yes, Cost Include:**

**If no, Site Development Costs** Included in $19.5 million construction costs

**If no, Construction Costs** $19.5 million

**If no, FF&E** Approximately $1.2 million

**If no, Other:**

**If no, Total Cost** Approximately $20.7 million exclusive of District “soft costs” for design, fees, management, etc.
Ed Specs / Program of Requirements

Please include a PDF of the educational specifications/program of requirements along with your submittal package.
## Project Data: *(Confidential Information)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submitting Firm:</th>
<th>Lionakis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Role</td>
<td>Architecture, Structural Engineering, Interior Design, Sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Contact</td>
<td>Laura Knauss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>1919 Nineteenth Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City, State or Province, Country</td>
<td>Sacramento, CA 95811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>(916) 558-1900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

| Other Firm:                           | N/A                               |
| Project Role                          |                                   |
| Project Contact                       |                                   |
| Title                                 |                                   |
| Address                               |                                   |
| City, State or Province, Country      |                                   |
| Phone                                 |                                   |

| Construction Firm:                    | Clark/Sullivan                    |
| Project Role                          | General Contractor                |
| Project Contact                       | Ted Foor                          |
| Title                                 | Vice President and California Area Manager |
| Address                               | 2024 Opportunity Drive #150       |
| City, State or Province, Country      | Roseville, CA 95678               |
| Phone                                 | (916) 338-7707                    |
Photo Release: *(Return SIGNED copy with your submittal)*

Print, Sign, Scan and Submit with Package

Name of Project: Sylvan Middle School: A STEAM Focused Transformation

Location of Project: Citrus Heights, CA

A4LE has our permission to:

- [x] Send photos electronically to jury members (required for entry).
- [x] Display photos in the award winners’ area of the website, if selected as a finalist.
- [x] Display photos on other sections of the website as representative A4LE projects.
- [x] Print photos in A4LE newsletters.
- [x] Print photos on A4LE marketing materials, i.e. brochures, awards, call for entries, etc.
- [x] Print photos and project details in the A4LE Design Portfolio, if selected as a finalist.
- [x] Special projects with prior permission.

Please Note: A4LE maintains an in-house archive of school designs as part of our research library.

Your information will be entered and recorded as one of those designs.

Firm: Lionakis

Responsible Party/Photographer: Tim Maloney, Technical Imagery Studios

Signature: [Signature]

Date of Release: March 30, 2018