

GENEVA EPPS MOSLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Tempe, Arizona
Tempe Elementary School District



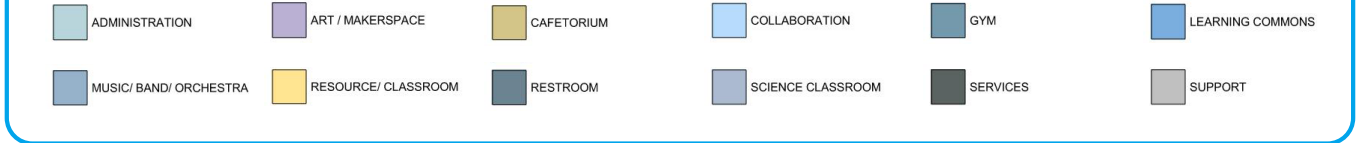
First Floor Plan



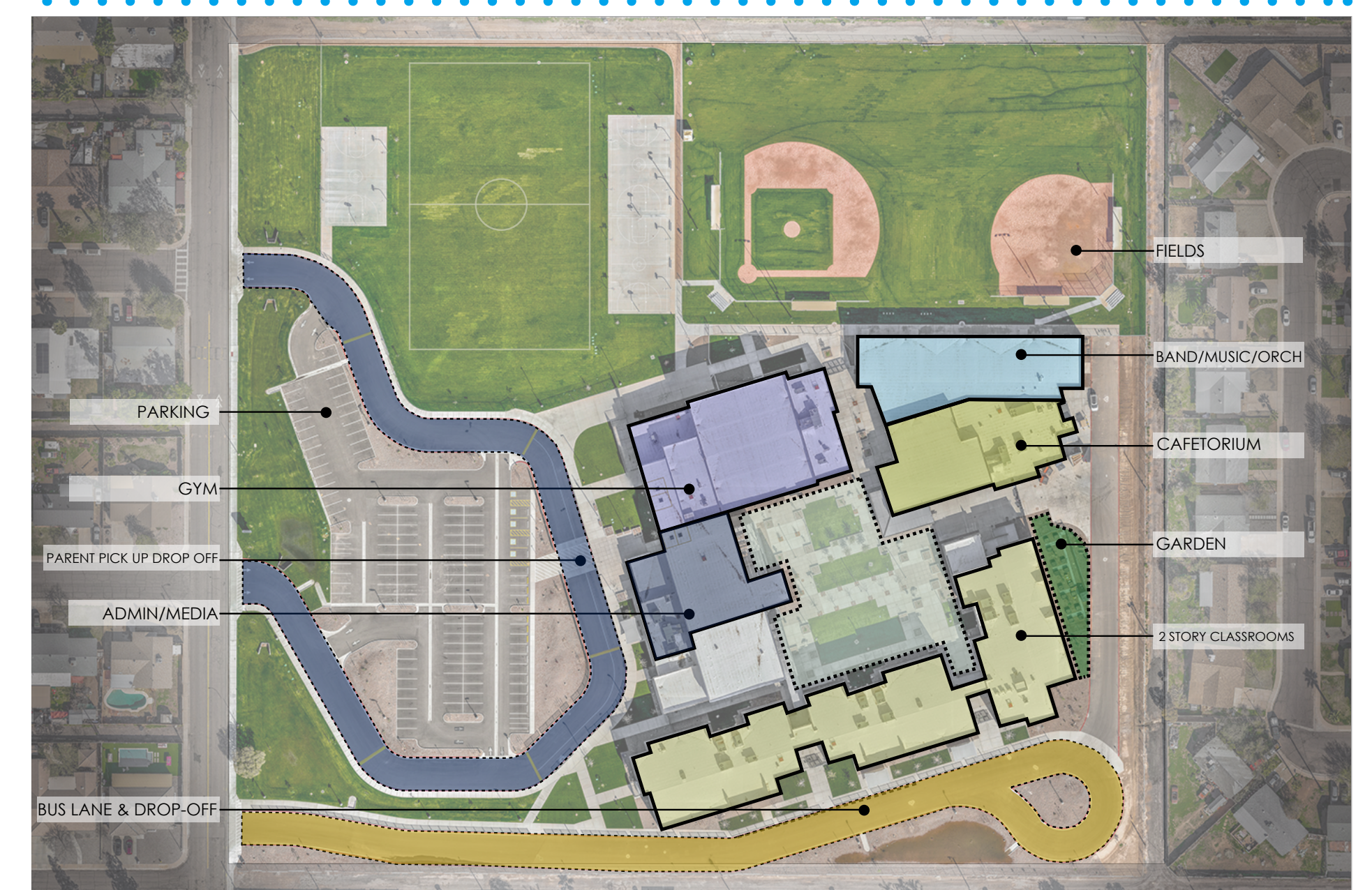
Second Floor Plan



Legend:



Site Plan - Overall



Scope of Work & Budget

Client/Owner: Tempe Elementary School District
Superintendent: Dr. James Driscoll
Project Name: Geneva Epps Mosley Middle School
Location: Tempe, Arizona
General Contractor: Chasse Building Group

Occupancy Date: July 2023
Grades Housed: 6-8
School Capacity: 1,116 Students
Site Size: 19 Acres
Gross Area (Sq. Ft.): 132,000 Sq. Ft.
Space Per Pupil (Gross): 118 Sq. Ft.
Delivery Method: CMAR
Total Cost: \$50,376,633

Project Narrative

Existing Facility

The Gilliland School Campus has served as a cornerstone of the community, hosting countless students and community events and programs since its inception in 1964. The team went through a rigorous assessment of the entire campus to determine the best route forward, renovation or new build. All evidence pointed to rebuild, and with that, renaming Geneva Epps Mosley Middle School, affectionately known as GEMMS.

Site Planning

The district lacked available facilities to house the student population during construction, and spending well over \$1 million on temporary portables seemed a poor use of funds. Inevitably, it led the team to the task of building a new school on an occupied campus.

With this limitation on maintaining an existing school, we were forced to build in the fields. The design team focused on overall site strategies in the early design phase.

Focus points included: Creating a visible community facing front to the campus, solar orientation and self-shading (Phoenix Metropolitan area is one of the harshest environments for sun exposure), courtyard design, improved pick up and drop off queue with separation of bus and parent drives, and separation of delivery and visitor access, to name a few.

The planning phase for GEMMS focused on our team's core values, prioritizing the creation of a space that fosters student learning within the Tempe community. These guiding principles informed every decision throughout the facility's planning and design stages. Our team believes the commitment to using values helped to create our exceptional features at GEMMS. Values that guided our team were:

- + Innovative:** Future-focused building that integrated technology and flexible design. Specifically, classrooms have access to collaborative spaces and folding glass walls that extend and expand learning spaces.
- + Community:** Community stakeholders had the opportunity to provide input for the design through numerous workshops.
- + Learner-Focused:** Students are at the heart of all decision-making related to the design and building process. The spaces were planned from a student's perspective and designed to accommodate a variety of needs to support each student's success.
- + Sustainability:** Much of the building orientation and site planning was established as a passive sustainable element.

+ Courtyard Design: One of the main features of the school, the courtyard design, serves as a student gathering space, a collaborative project space, and an escape from the harsh Arizona sun. The tallest forms of the footprint are used to create shade in much of the courtyard, confirmed with shade studies during design. Within the courtyard, the team used more mature trees than typical new trees. This gave a jump-start to the courtyard's comfort and will provide a welcome respite from the Phoenix sun.

Several site and building iterations were explored and tested against the metrics established above and overlaid with the existing school to ensure that the school could function as close to normal as possible during construction.

Building on an occupied campus offers wonderful opportunities, and the design and construction team took full advantage of these through student events during construction, hands-on learning, and exposure to the architecture and construction industry through workshops and specialized "classes", presentations, and discussions for the students. A few items that were new to the district included:

Second-floor Learning Commons with Outdoor Deck Space

Typically placed on the lower level, the learning commons were elevated to perch above the administration suite. This space connects both the administration building and the gymnasium, anchoring the school's public face. The space visually connects to the courtyard and the surrounding neighborhood, giving this element unique qualities and the students unparalleled views of Downtown Tempe and the Arizona State University Campus.

Classroom Neighborhoods

Learner-focused spaces, collaboration, and flexibility are at the heart of the classroom neighborhoods. Our approach to these pods pulled several elements together:

- + Teams for each cohort have a neighborhood with resource spaces integrated into each pod, and a collaborative space for all to use.**
- + Lockdown scenarios were redefined from the traditional classroom perimeter to the complete neighborhood that includes classrooms, restrooms, and collaboration spaces.**

Since the successful implementation of GEMMS, the district has continually pushed the boundary of K-8 education spaces and is leading the charge on rethinking how we deliver education and what a "Classroom" means.

