

# Columbine High School

Association for Learning Environments  
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Specific-use classrooms such as culinary arts were completely refreshed to further enhance the capabilities of individual programs and departments. The **new auxiliary gym provides adequate space** for basketball, cheerleading, gymnastics, wrestling and other activities not previously available.

Columbine has a long history of academic and athletic excellence and displaying these accomplishments was important, but not physically practical in the new design. As such, a digital archive display was created to view historic accomplishments and awards, while also making space to display recent achievements in the new **Hall of Fame** wing linking the new auxiliary gym.

The school had previously been using the existing 50 year old locker rooms that could not equitably accommodate all of the schools activities. We worked within the existing footprint to reconfigure the space so that each of the required locker room spaces for male and female sports were available with a flex locker room space in the middle that could securely be expanded to accommodate a particular event and allow proper privacy.

**School safety and security remains a top priority at Columbine.** They currently have 10 School Resource Officers (more than any other in the district) to manage unwanted visitors. Prior to the project, the school was having to field nearly 2,000 unwanted visitors each year who wanted to come and witness first hand images they had seen on the news so many years ago.

Due to these unwanted guests, giving the entrance a complete refresh and changing the physical appearance to both deter unwanted visitors while welcoming the Columbine Family was crucial in the design.

Through a new entrance, our team was able to continue to weave the **family** thread into the design. During the DAG process it was very clear that while we were changing the school physically, we needed the changes to welcome all members of the Columbine Family, past, present and future. The new entry canopy and plaza created a **supervised** area to welcome students **daily** and families for **special events**. The new plaza is illuminated by 13 light fixtures that appear to lift up the new entrance and light your way into the building. The 13 light fixtures honor the precious 13 lost in the tragedy by allowing their memory to light the way for future Columbine Rebels.

We also changed other elements such as the color of the glass on the exterior and modified the landscape to deter unwanted visitors. Part of the interior refresh also enhanced a majority of the interior hallways that had been hastily covered up in 1999 to cover damage to the school.

