

# PORTOLA HIGH SCHOOL

Irvine Unified School District



View of North (Active) Quad



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## SITE PLAN

The site sits directly adjacent to the Agua Chinon Arroyo, which is a restored river/runoff wetland that feeds Great Park and the surrounding natural habitat. Our site design drew inspiration from this natural amenity and resulted in a flowing and organic site plan. As a counterpoint to this flowing plan, we created a linear pedestrian promenade that starts at the main campus entry, extends all the way through the middle of campus, continues past the fields, and terminates at the stadium.





## CONTEXTUAL VIEW

The upper image with the arrow overlay shows the view corridor created by the pedestrian promenade and how it frames views of Santiago Peak, the highest peak in Orange County. The promenade starts at the entry to the administration building, and ends at the stadium. Looking to the west on the path, you can see the giant orange balloon which is a local landmark in the area.





This maker space is set up to accommodate a number of different functions. It features durable butcher block tables, 3D printers, laser cutter, and various other power/hand tools that allow the students to build virtually anything they can imagine. The space has ample lockable storage and is located directly adjacent to the main student union space. This proximity allows students to get inspired by witnessing the creative process first hand, and allows access before and after school hours so students can work on their projects any time.

## CAMPUS CENTER

The Campus Center building sits in the heart of the campus, and hosts various shared program spaces. The Student Union space allows students to have a protected, multi-use space they can use for various-sized events and study groups. This space is connected directly to the Learning Commons (library) with a large sliding glass wall. This configuration allows for ultimate flexibility for various events and educational flexibility. Various programs flank these spaces for maximum viability and include: the Maker Space Lab, ASB, student store, athletic director's offices (who help supervise these spaces before and after school), and support spaces. One stand-out feature that we integrated into this building is a passive green roof with a dual plenum system that utilizes energy savings systems while providing a sustainable living lab from which the students can learn.



# EXTERIOR VIEW

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Classroom Buildings



Administration Entry



The building's tri-colored concrete block walls appear to emerge from the earth like layers of sedimentary rock found in the area, separated by windows that provide daylighting for the interior spaces as well as views looking out. A landscaping area filled with native vegetation, and framed by the extended covered walkway directly in front of the earthen wall slabs, creates a natural layered effect. In contrast, the flying rooflines slope up towards the north and east to capitalize on views to the mountains, breaking down the scale of the campus to be compatible with the new residential neighborhood.

Performing Arts Entry



Classroom Building Stair



Aerial View of Campus





# INTERIOR VIEWS

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The administration lobby is designed to be a glass portal that guides first-time visitors to the front desk, and set up to provide a view to the mountains to the east. The main path on campus starts at the front door, extends all the way down past the athletics complex, and terminates at the stadium.



Performing Arts Theater



Administration Lobby

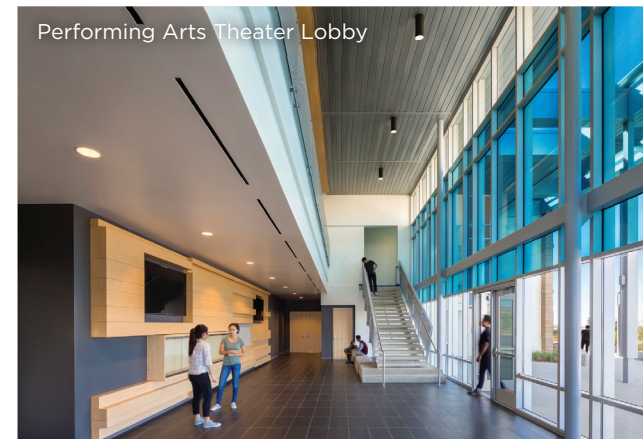
Electro-chromic (auto-tinting) glazing was used in the big public spaces to protect those spaces from solar heat gain and glare during late-day events.



Orchestral Music Lab



Learning Commons & Student Union



Performing Arts Theater Lobby



- Outdoor Collaboration
- Student Collaboration Zones
- Staff Collaboration Zones



## LEARNING HAPPENS EVERYWHERE

To encourage collaboration, the design team created student common rooms that are located between all classroom wings. These spaces are flexible rooms that facilitate different learning styles, including work sharing, one-on-one instruction, multi-class presentations, and small-group instruction. The design team also created numerous cross-disciplinary staff development opportunities by locating teacher prep/collaboration rooms strategically between classroom wings and on each classroom level. We designed a multitude of spaces that allow learning to truly happen anywhere on campus. We created two quads: one more active near electives, and one more contemplative near the clustered classroom buildings. These spaces have bench seating that is shaded most of the day and are right sized to allow students to gather in small groups as high school students tend to do.



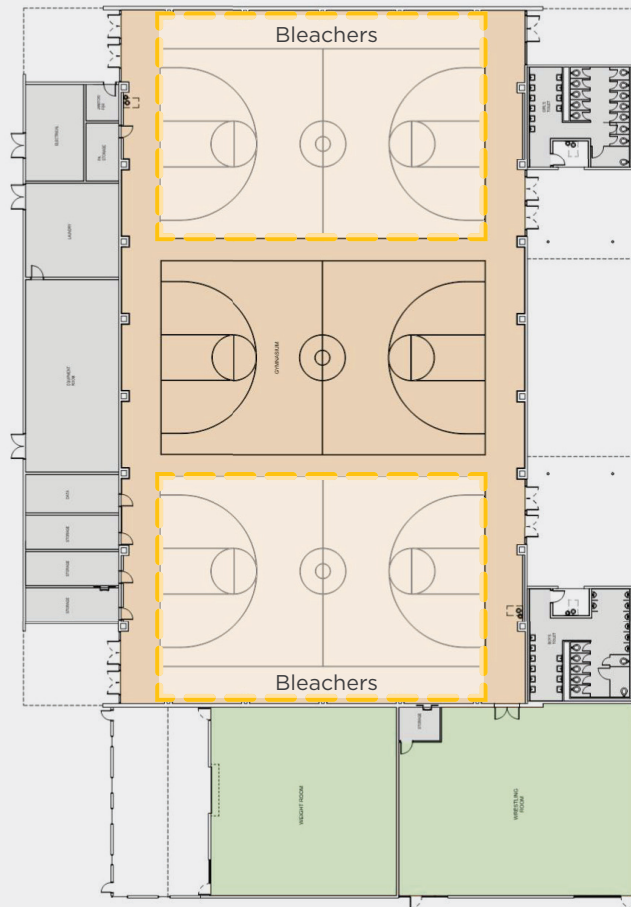
- Classrooms
- Student Collaboration Suites
- Staff Collaboration Suites



## CLASSROOMS

The school's buildings are clustered to follow the curves and slopes of the natural environment. One of the District's goals was to create an environment where learning happens everywhere, and this organic assemblage of buildings successfully defines areas for informal gathering, dining, and studying throughout the campus.





View of Gymnasium



View Inside (Three-Court) Gym



View of Aquatic Center



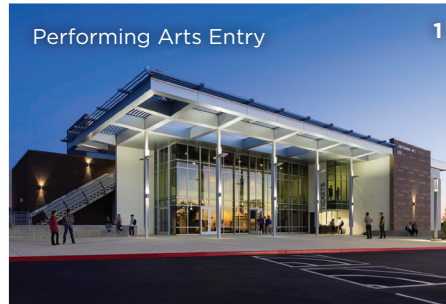
Aerial View of Stadium



## ATHLETICS COMPLEX

The athletics complex on campus has a full three-court gym that seats the entire student body, locker rooms, an aquatic center, varsity baseball, varsity softball, regulation soccer fields, practice field space, and a stadium with synthetic track and field.





## PERFORMING ARTS

The 700-seat performing arts complex is set up to hold various community presentations/functions, and is designed to be a learning lab for performing arts. This building is run by the students (with oversight) who learn about how to control stage lighting, design and build stage sets, operate rigging, and control sound and video production. This building is a laboratory as much as it is a great place to watch a show.