

LifeLearn

SPRING 2014

Lourdes High School

LOURDES FOUNDATION
ACADEMIC BUILDING

Volunteers in Action

Design for Healthy Learning

**Trending Toward Public
Partnership Projects**

ATS&R
PLANNERS / ARCHITECTS / ENGINEERS

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

FAIR School Design Competition

During the month of May, several ATS&R team members will be working with the 7th grade students at the FAIR School Crystal on a Sculpture & Courtyard Design Competition. The students will work together to design a new sculpture for the courtyard on the west side of the school.

Working in small groups, ATS&R will assist the students in measuring the project site, analyzing the project site, recording their ideas and sketches, designing their sculpture and courtyard, creating a material list and project budget, building a scale model of their sculpture, and presenting the model of their sculpture and a drawing of their courtyard design to their peers and the selection committee. At the end of the competition, ATS&R will host a Class Completion Celebration for the volunteers as well as the students who have generated exemplary work. The selected students, their parents and volunteers will be honored with a luncheon at ATS&R's office on May 30, 2014.

"The idea that these young students are interested in architecture excites us, as we want to encourage them to continue their career into this field. Being a recent college graduate, I want to inspire students that if they do what they are passionate about, they will always be successful," comments Carrie Adams, ATS&R interior designer and competition volunteer. Other ATS&R volunteers include Eric Anderson, architectural intern; Josh Litwiller, architectural intern; and Jen Grimes, interior designer.

The FAIR School is a K-12 Fine Arts Interdisciplinary Resource School community with two campuses, FAIR School Downtown and FAIR School Crystal. The FAIR School is the result of imaginative educational conception, inventive curriculum planning, and innovative architectural design. As part of the West Metro Education Program, the school community stretches across urban and suburban lines and is a collaborative effort involving eleven public school districts: Brooklyn Center, Columbia Heights, Edina, Eden Prairie, Hopkins, Minneapolis, Richfield, Robbinsdale, St. Anthony-New Brighton, St. Louis Park, and Wayzata.



Photos above: ATS&R's Josh Litwiller and Eric Anderson assisting students with their sculpture design concepts.

Design for Healthy Learning

The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Steering Committee is preparing revisions to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) 'School Construction and Siting Guidelines' document. Focusing on key design areas that impact healthy eating, physical activity, and active learning, the committee will explore and formulate design recommendations to MDE such as:

- How many MN schools have renovated existing kitchens, cafeterias or learning spaces or designed new spaces to promote student awareness and consumption of healthy foods and beverages?
- How many MN schools (districts) have considered healthy eating guidelines when renovating indoor food environments (e.g. cafeterias, kitchens, classrooms)?
- What percentage of schools have the physical infrastructure (sidewalks, trails, marked crossings, traffic control, etc.) that supports walking and biking (or other active transportation modes) to school?
- How many schools have designed and/or redesigned their outdoor spaces to promote or maximize physical activities?
- How many schools have designed and/or redesigned their classrooms, common areas, and other facilities for physical activity ("active learning")?

The HIA is funded by the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts, with additional funds from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation. ATS&R participated in the 2003 revision of the MDE Guide and, through invitation, is participating in this HIA endeavor conducted by the Public Health Law Center of the William Mitchell Law School. Steering committee participants include MDE, Minnesota Department of Health, Minneapolis Public Schools, Minnetonka Public Schools, American Planning Association, Minnesota School Nutrition Association, ATS&R, and others.



Maple Grove Junior High Gymnasium Addition

TRENDING TOWARD PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

When public entities, non-profit organizations, and private corporations collaborate on projects, smarter solutions are created for communities. Whether it is recreational, educational, or social services facilities, or park and playfield developments, collaborative efforts result in solutions for the 'greater good.' Shrinking funds, difficulty in passing referenda or simply effective pooling of resources are reasons for a recent increase in public-nonprofit-private projects.

One example is the Minneapolis suburban City of Maple Grove, Independent School District No. 279, and the nonprofit Osseo Maple Grove Basketball Association that combined funds and utilized District property to build six indoor practice basketball courts (three tournament courts and pickle-ball courts) for community youth, senior citizens, and school programs. This \$8.6 million project with 43,000 square feet of new construction attached to Maple Grove Junior High School is funded by the city (80%), the basketball association (20%), and the school district (who owns and operates the facility).

Another example is the new regional sports complex that includes two sheets of ice (adaptable for exhibitions and conventions), meeting rooms, and playfields. It is a collaborative effort between the City

of Marshall, the Southwest Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission, a Marshall-based international private corporation, and the Minnesota State Legislature. Located adjacent to Marshall High School and Southwest Minnesota State University, this \$16 million project will serve the community, students, and youth programs.

One final example features Austin Public Schools, Minnesota, which consistently partners with the international locally-based foods corporation for creating new and upgraded school facilities. The community benefits from strong education and state-of-the-art school facilities.

Collaborative projects require communication and cooperation. Starting with a "wouldn't it be great" idea shared with potential partners, excitement is generated and a concept model emerges. When the critical element of funding is finalized, the design process moves quickly. A steering committee (several members from each entity) is the vehicle for decision-making which streamlines the process. User-group involvement through participatory planning is an essential element for success.

Collaborative partnership-projects are worth the time and effort to create something greater for the community than an individual entity could accomplish on their own.



Southwest Amateur Sports Center



8501 Golden Valley Road, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55427
T 763.545.3731 • F 763.525.3289
www.atrs.com • information@atrs.com

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HOLTON & LOURDES WIN AWARDS



Congratulations to Austin Public Schools & I.J. Holton Intermediate School for receiving the Citation of Excellence Award from Learning by Design for the 2014 Architectural Showcase and an Honorable Mention in the 2014 Education Design Showcase by School Planning & Management. The photo to the left illustrates the any place any time learning in this intermediate school that embraces Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM).

Kudos to Rochester Catholic Schools and Lourdes High School on receiving an Outstanding Award from Learning by Design. The image on the cover page depicts one of many flexible areas where students can plug in and get connected.