

guiding principles for design



Be a learner-centered environment.

- A variety of spaces, both interior and exterior, will be provided to support multiple intelligences and encourage multiple learning modalities.
- The schools will incorporate Small Learning Communities to enhance learning, connectedness, and collaboration.
- Ample, robust, and flexible technology options will be available to support learning.
- The learning environment is to include space for hands-on project-based learning.
- Utilize evidence-based design when selecting interior colors and materials so as to positively impact student behavior, productivity, and achievement.

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Be a safe environment.

- The schools will be designed to support security and personal safety.
- The school's main entrance will be adjacent and visible to the administration and incorporate a "secured vestibule" for controlled entry during the school day.
- Access points to the school will be limited, easily supervised, and controlled.
- The schools will be zoned for before and after school community use.
- Design the Small Learning Communities as "safe havens" in case of emergency lock-downs.
- Provide separate and discrete vehicular drop-off zones for parents and buses.
- Provide adequate exterior site lighting throughout pedestrian and vehicular zones.
- Provide emergency access and exiting throughout the schools,

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Be flexible and adaptable.

- Various learning spaces will promote multiple uses to enable high utilization of all spaces.
- Include a variety of spaces such as learning studios, learning commons, and small group rooms in each Small Learning Community to provide diverse and agile places of learning.
- Buildings shall be designed to accommodate change over time; consider building structure, infrastructure, and technology.
- Furniture and equipment will be selected to support flexibility and multi-use.
- Consider providing flexible space that can support and encourage community partnerships.
- Provide adequate covered outdoor space to allow for year-round outdoor play.
- Efficient use of space.

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Promote meaningful collaboration.

- Small personalized learning communities will be provided that promote collaborative activities.
- Provide staff team/planning spaces in each Small Learning Community to promote teacher communication and teaming.
- Provide spaces such as learning commons and small group rooms to support student collaboration and interaction.
- Accommodate staff professional development needs.
- Consider the concept of “the open office” to encourage better communication and collaboration in the school administration area.
- Consider providing common space for parent and community volunteers.
- Provide a “Community Living Room” to welcome and foster communication between the school and community.

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Be a community resource.

- The school will be well lit, visible, inviting, and accessible for community use.
- Zone the facilities in such a way as to promote and support community use.
- Consider the school facility as a potential community FEMA shelter in an emergency.
- Accommodate and allow for community use of play fields, gymnasiums, and other school facilities as deemed appropriate.
- Unity of school community will be supported and promoted through the inclusion of Small Learning Communities, shared spaces, and multi-use of spaces.

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Be a model school for stewardship and sustainability.

- The school facilities will incorporate natural light and daylight harvesting features.
- The school building and site will be a teaching tool for environmental stewardship.
- Select building materials and systems that are sustainable, durable, and cost-effective. Select mechanical systems that are both energy efficient and simple/easy to operate and maintain.
- Use renewable energies (i.e. solar, wind) where appropriate and cost effective.
- Provide a healthy indoor school environment; including quality indoor air, quality acoustics, and supporting physical activity.
- Encourage environmentally responsible behavior through the inclusion of recycle stations, energy performance reporting stations (Dash-Board) and outdoor learning labs.
- Effectively use public funds to deliver a resource and energy-efficient school.
- Foster student health and wellness by encouraging physical activity, active lifestyle and healthy eating.

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Honor community context.

- Design each of the three elementary schools (Wilkes, Fairview, and Troutdale) to reflect and honor the unique community/neighborhood in which it resides while adding to the strength and stability of the neighborhood.
- Ensure that the design of each school is equitable in quality, program, and features.
- Design each school to celebrate and showcase the school's heritage and history.
- Utilize a design aesthetic that is not trendy and will pass the test of time. Consider the use of masonry as a preferred exterior building material.