Bellview Elementary School

Ashland, Oregon

DLR Group's design for Bellview Elementary School integrates a significant addition to an historic building on a steeply sloping site. The challenge was to design a 48,000 SF gymnasium, cafeteria and kitchen addition that wouldn't overshadow the beloved, ninety-year-old existing elementary school. In addition to architectural compatibility, the design would need to accommodate a 16-foot grade change throughout the new addition.

The result is a design that succeeds in meeting educational, aesthetic and site needs. The new addition's stucco exterior, color palette, and materials match those of the existing school, creating a gentle transition from old to new. The central placement of the kitchen and cafeteria temper the size of the gym and provide a massing break between the old school and the new structure. Sustainable features include energy-efficient windows in the old building, solar heated bathrooms, resilient flooring, and recycled finishes.

The design team worked closely with the community and the historic planning commission to ensure that this project would be a resounding success.

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Walker Elementary School

Ashland, Oregon

Sometimes there is only one right design, but it has the potential for community backlash. At Walker Elementary, the budget was very lean for an expanded library and new bus lane. The bus lane had to go on the south side of the library, resulting in the removal of four trees that had been there since the original construction. The site restrictions forced the lane to run tight to this new southern addition to the library.

Without spending extra dollars, DLR Group invited the neighbors and parents of the school and shared the bad news and conducted a charrette to figure out what could be done. What resulted were these amazing sun shades that had the cut outs of the shading of the four trees (DLR Group drew them from the cast shadows of the trees). These provided the needed southern light filtering through a flattened surface, as canopies would have protruded into the bus zone.

The memory of the trees was preserved, and a local iron worker got the commission for the sun shades, while still meeting the budget.

Helman Elementary School

Ashland, Oregon

At this elementary school, the old library was converted to expanded administrative areas and pull-out specialized instruction. A new media center was provided, as well as a new gymnasium and parking area to provide a new community focus area with its own after-hours access. Helman had struggled with a connectedness to the community and locked spaces to provide for the function. The re-claimed space adjacent to the office now gives parent and community volunteers a space to operate out of and much needed conference space.

The versatile pull-out spaces aid with student reading and tutoring programs. The media center is state-of-the-art at the same time as being friendly. It has the internal classroom area fully integrated to the District technology standards, but also has tiered seating for a storytelling area and an outdoor student walking garden. The gym is sized to allow the physical education program to thrive both indoor and outdoor, with a full-length covered play area. Multiple community engagement meetings were held with the neighbors to talk about the impacts of the additions. In one instance, landscape growth diagrams were provided to illustrate what requested landscape screens would look like initially and at 5 and 10 years.

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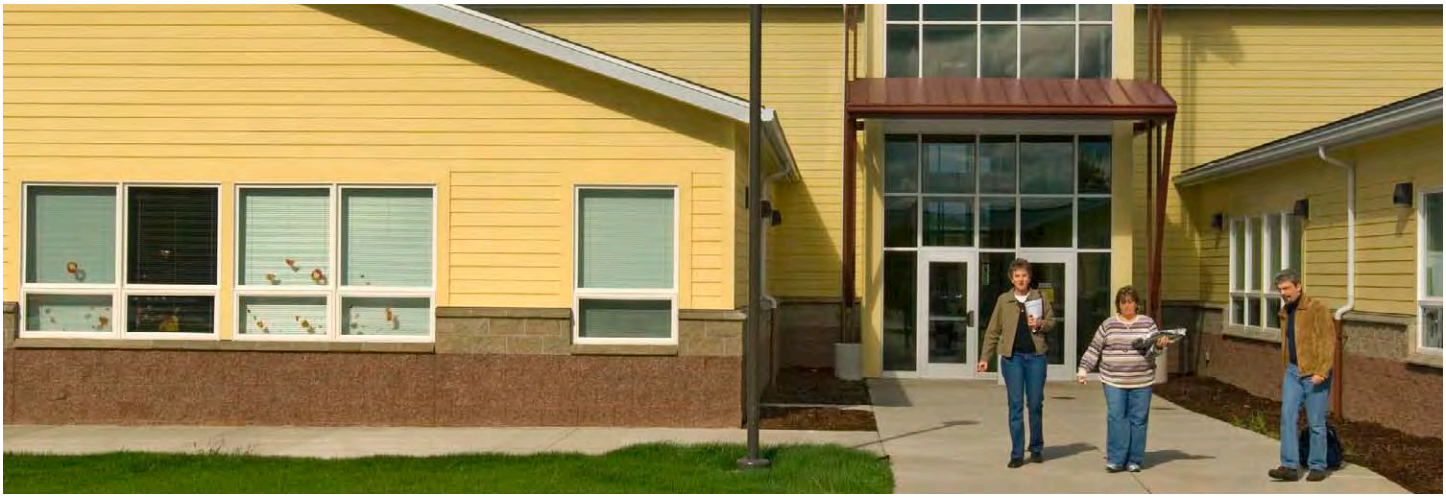
Aumsville Elementary School

Turner, Oregon



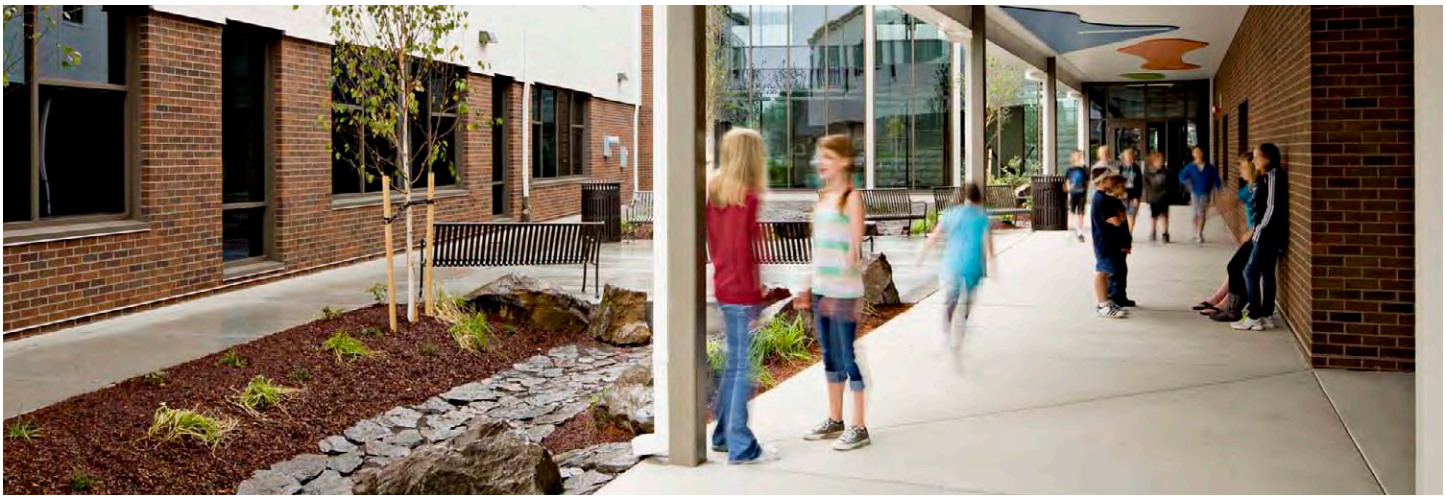
The new 60,000 SF Aumsville Elementary School is designed for flexibility, active learning, and high performance. Aumsville features classroom pods with a central learning commons that are arranged in a spoke formation around a central administration core. This arrangement facilitates better control of classroom access and visitor circulation, while increasing energy efficiency.

Flexibility was a key design goal for this community. The stage/ band room, cafeteria, and gymnasium are separated by operable walls that open to accommodate 2000+ seats for performances and meetings.

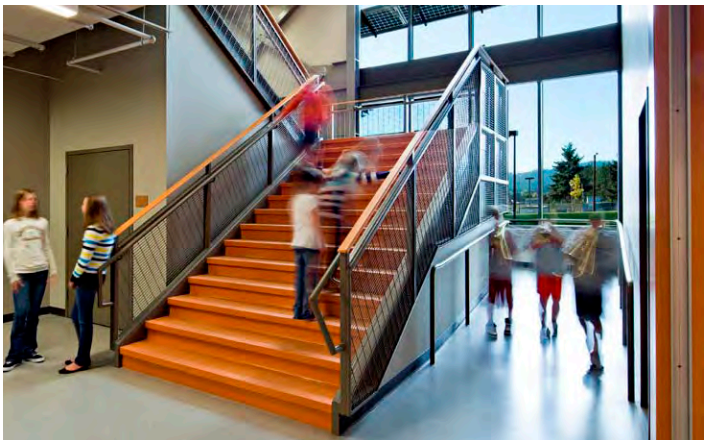
The school incorporates cost-effective sustainable components that serve as teaching tools for students. Classrooms are equipped with outdoor air temperature sensors that let students know when it's time to open their windows. Classroom wings also feature central operable clerestories for natural ventilation in the learning commons.

Petersen Elementary School

Scappoose, Oregon



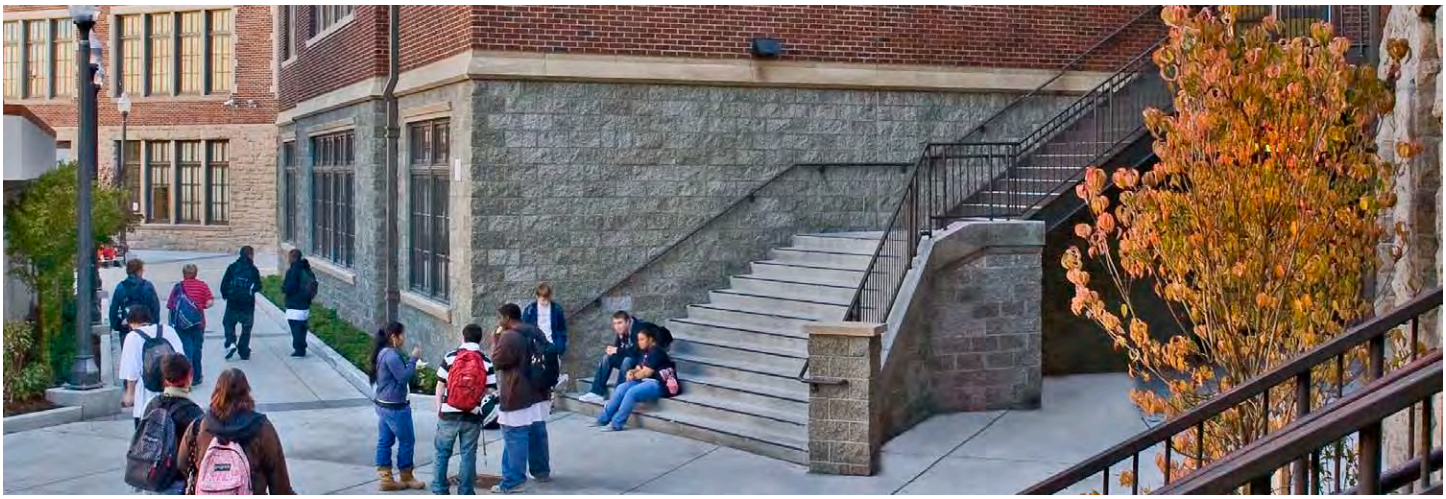
Scappoose School District serves a diverse rural community of people who are passionate about sustainability, their regional history, and the quality of education for their kids. DLR Group's design process began with early community charrettes where members of our integrated design team led brainstorming workshops, group discussions, and prioritization activities to develop a shared vision of success for Petersen Elementary School. Subsequent design solutions included incorporating sustainable strategies in site, water, energy, materials, healthy environments and quality of experience to create a building that is a teaching tool. Educational signage explains the sustainable functions and benefits of the building to promote global citizenship to students and visitors every day. Responding to the community's profound interest in honoring the pictorial natural environment and the history of the area (which included meeting grounds of the Chinook tribes and settling by non-native peoples and their ongoing connection with the land) historic plaques and photo collages of the area's history are proudly displayed in the school commons; and the school bell from the original Otto H. H. Petersen School has been refurbished and ceremoniously placed at the front door to greet visitors.



The 72,000 SF Petersen Elementary School replaces an existing outdated facility and houses 550 students in grades 4-6. Sustainable design strategies earned LEED Gold certification. Rooftop photovoltaics provide an on-site renewable energy source, while extensive glazing and other strategies allowed daylighting in 75% of the building, and maintain experiential connections to the surrounding landscape. More than 70 percent of the trees were maintained through the building's integration within the seven-acre site. DLR Group provided architecture, engineering, and interiors services.

Lincoln High School Historic Renovation

Tacoma, Washington



This renovation shows how a 1913 historic high school can provide learning spaces for 21st Century educational models. DLR Group's design, in collaboration with TCF Architecture, preserves the building's traditional character while supporting a new, academy-based, small learning community (SLC) program.

The renovation divides the building into independent zones, each composed of a set of learning spaces that support the unique identity, curriculum and mission of its academy. Renewed purpose and traditional craftsmanship charge original architectural details and artifacts such as windows and woodwork. Reestablishing this treasured neighborhood landmark connects students directly to the heart of their community, while immersing them in an engaging, innovative learning environment.

The scope of work included the programming and planning for a new small learning community educational model serving 1,800 students in grades 9-12. Renovations encompassed 236,850 GSF, including restoration and modernization of the original Old Main building; structural upgrades to the industrial arts building and miscellaneous improvements to the gym/pool building.

Additions totaled 46,484 GSF, including a replacement of the library wing with a new three-story science classroom wing, and construction of a new four-level (three stories plus basement) classroom library wing. DLR Group provided architecture, interiors, civil engineering and structural engineering services.

Foss High School

Tacoma, Washington

In 2001, Henry Foss High School earned a Washington State Achiever School grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This honor, coupled with moneys made available through one of the largest bonds to be passed in Tacoma, set the school on the course of an extensive renovation and addition program aimed at providing 21st Century facilities for Foss students, staff and community members.

The building first opened in 1973 and since that time has grown outdated. Not only did the forbidding brick mass of the structure fail to convey the vital identity of the students and staff who now inhabit it, but also the open-plan concept on which the design was based did not at all support today's dynamic teaching methods. The renovation and expansion program focused on transforming the building's entire essence, from a substantial upgrade to systems operations and programmatic needs, to a dramatic transformation of the building's architectural identity. The scope of work included: two new classroom additions to accommodate students currently housed in portables; extensive upgrades to science labs and room resources; an expansion of the existing gymnasium and upgrade of various physical education and athletic support spaces; the addition of a new Auxiliary Gym and new weight room; hazardous materials abatement; and a complete replacement of the entire building's mechanical, plumbing and lighting systems. The design solution dramatically changed the essential character of the facility, and created a reinvigorated sense of place for the school community.

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