THUNDER VISTA PK8

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
This new PK-8 school for 1000 students is located on a 12 acre site in the Anthem Community in Broomfield. The main entry faces Preble Creek Parkway and has nearly 60 feet of grade change across the site which allows for a second entry and drop off from Pikes Peak Drive. The main entry level has the Administration area and Library as well as classrooms for Prek and the lower grades. The second floor classroom wing accommodates the upper grades and middle school. The lower level has the Cafeteria, Gymnasium and specialty classrooms with direct access to the play areas. The neighborhood park is adjacent to the school and provides joint use of the fields. The project is pursuing CHPS Verified Leader certification.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:
This design was developed and presented to a Design Advisory Group (DAG) at three meetings spanning a month's worth of time. The DAG consisted of a great mix of stakeholders that included educators, parents, the developer of the neighborhood and representatives from the City of Broomfield. The DAG did a great job sharing their time and perspectives and helped inform and shape the design of the school and site.

The design was organized around the PK-8 education specification, published December 19, 2014, the Adams 12 Technical Guidelines, meetings with the Anthem Steering Committee as well as regular meetings with Adams 12 Facilities staff. These documents, meetings, and interactions became the basis of design for the new PK-8 school. Many of the following goals came from an exercise with the design advisory group of “Defining Success” and the tours of several nearby, recently-completed school facilities.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:
Design Goals for the Learning Environment:
- Not just flexible but adaptable
- Variety of learning spaces that support all learners.
- Indoor/outdoor connection
- Integrated into the community
- Welcoming and inviting
- A point of pride for the community and district.

Corresponding Design Features:
- A Learning Stair that connects the Cafeteria to the main level
- An open Library concept that includes an upper level area for middle school students
- Break out areas in the classroom wings
- Each classroom has natural light and a media wall
- Energy efficient mechanical system with ground-source heat pumps
- Energy efficient LED light fixtures
- Outdoor classroom and community garden
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT:

The floor plan of the school is organized around an approach in which the academic wings follow the topography so that the building can help make up the grade that is falling across the site. Working with the design concept, the building is also oriented to not just hold back grade but to start to take advantage of the views the site has to offer. There is also a spine that cuts in between the front to the back of the site to tie together the lower secondary entry to the upper main entry. Special attention was given to the connections, both physical and visual, between the various levels of the school as it descends across the site. Features such as the learning stair and “crow’s nest” overlook breakout spaces lend to the sense of activity and connectedness throughout the school. The double-level cafeteria and Learning Commons serve as open connector spaces that have a multi-purpose atmosphere- supporting varied learning-style activities as well different age groups.

RESULTS OF THE PROCESS AND PROJECT:

The new Anthem school is intended to be a neighborhood school. As such, it has been designed specifically to the site, to the neighborhood and to the overall area of northeast Broomfield. Upon arrival at the Anthem neighborhood there is a modern mountain aesthetic that permeates everything from the plantings around entry signage to the community buildings. This aesthetic is complemented and reinforced by sweeping mountain views from most every spot in the neighborhood. The design of the building draws inspiration from the neighborhood and the views. The exterior building materials of brick and metal panel utilize tones that pull from the colors of the earth and the metal panel from the look of weathered steel. Strong fins on the end of each wing hold back the earth and emulate the vertical planes of the Flatirons, which can be seen from the site. The fins also embrace the site and root the building into the sloping terrain. The main goal of the concept is that the school is a place that has embraced its site, community, students, and faculty.

Night use and the ability to lock off areas of the building was a driver to place more of the shared amenities of the school in the center of the plan. Entries at the upper and lower level help split the drop off and pick up surges but also break up the site to have two access points to split the traffic load at any time. Careful consideration was given to vertical and horizontal circulation to ensure that students of varying sizes (P-8) would have circulation paths that are somewhat dedicated throughout the building.
SITE PLAN

PROPERTY LINE (LIMITS OF WORK)
RESIDENTIAL, TYP.
OUTDOOR CLASSROOM/AMPitheATER
SANDSTONE BOULDER RETAINING WALL
BICYCLE STORAGE AREA (14 SPACES)
ART PATIO
BUS LOADING & VISITOR PARKING (57 SPACES)
COBBLE AT BUILDING EDGE
REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTION
PRIMARY ENTRANCE
BICYCLE STORAGE AREA (32 SPACES)
PARENT DROP OFF
VISITOR PARKING (31 SPACES)
CEDAR ESTATE FENCE
MONUMENT ESTATE FENCE
REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTIONS

NOTE:
205 PARKING SPACES PROVIDED.
(110 - 120 REQUIRED)

0' 30' 60' 90' 120' 180'

SHARED MULTI-USE SPORTS FIELD (BY OTHERS)
OVERLOOK (BY OTHERS)
SCHOOL GARDENS
FUTURE (2) MODULARS
CONCRETE PAVING, TYP.
BICYCLE STORAGE AREA (20 SPACES)
SECONDARY ENTRY
STAFF/VISITOR PARKING 120 SPACES
PARENT DROP OFF (≤1025 LF STACKING)
UTILITY YARD

COMMUNITY PARK
WITH SHARED FIELDS
MIDDLE PEAK DR.

PIKES PEAK DRIVE
PREBLE CREEK PKWY
HARVARD PLACE
INTRA PEAK DRIVE

1074x650