

Santa Maria High School Classroom Building

Santa Maria, CA

Santa Maria High School's Classical-style campus was designed by the renowned firm of Allison & Allison Architects and built in 1923. A new two-story, 14-classroom building helps transform this historic school into a 21st-century learning environment, while respecting its architectural heritage. The adjacent auditorium—a community landmark—inspired the modern yet complementary aesthetic of the building's exterior façade.

Student-centered learning is achieved through classrooms adaptable to various teaching methods. Key features include: (1) Easily configured spaces that support teaching from any position in the classroom and (2) Information technology with a highly versatile infrastructure.

At the building's heart are choir and band rooms for practice and instrument storage. Moveable partitions add functionality, while an innovative floating slab system mitigates sounds that can interfere with instruction in other classrooms. Sustainable elements are more than CHPS high-performance features: They transform the building itself into an interactive teaching tool. Informative signs throughout the facility invite students to learn more about environmental stewardship by scanning QR codes with their smartphones.



New Construction/Addition

Entire school/campus building

Rachlin Partners, Inc.

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DESIGN TEAM

Michael Rachlin, AIA, LEED AP, Principal-in-Charge
 Len Metcalf, AIA, Project Manager
 Erik Sharp, AIA, Project Architect
 Jennifer Harrison, AIA, Designer

OWNER/CLIENT

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District
 Santa Maria, CA
 Yolanda Ortiz, Assistant Superintendent Business Services
 805/922-4573

KEY STATS

Grades Served: 9–12
 Capacity: 378 students
 Size of Site: 1.3 acres
 Building Area: 26,336 sq. ft.
 Space per Student: 69.67 sq. ft.
 Cost per Student: \$25,502
 Square Foot Cost: \$366
 Project Cost: \$11,863,270
 Completion Date: August 2015
 Sustainability Rating Status: CHPS-Verified

PHOTOGRAPHY: TOM BONNER