



EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL/ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School of Literature and Technology

New Orleans, LA



Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School of Literature & Technology, located in the Gentilly neighborhood in New Orleans, LA, opened to students in August 2015. The new, 106,000 sf school serves 788 students in grades PreK through 8. Bethune Elementary's new construction was part of the Recovery School District's 2011 School Facilities Master Plan for rebuilding public schools in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

The school's design is organized around a U-shaped plan with central courtyard. Learning spaces (classrooms, labs), located in a 3-story academic wing on the site's quieter north side, make the most of natural light, and provide views of the playground and courtyard. The main entry, administration and student services, in the school's center, provide optimum public accessibility. Larger assembly spaces—gym and cafeteria—are located on the opposite, "busy" side of the site with a bus drop-off under existing live oak trees.

Major exterior materials are masonry (face brick, ground-face CMU), pre-finished horizontal 12" metal panels in varying profiles, and an aluminum window system with low-E glass and solar shading on the south. The project achieved its goal of LEED Silver, incorporating cost-effective energy-saving and sustainable design strategies.



New Construction/Addition

Entire school/campus building

Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects

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Brian Faucheux, AIA, LEED AP
504/523-6472

DESIGN TEAM

Brian Faucheux, AIA, LEED AP, Principal-In-Charge
Susan Gohd, AIA, LEED AP, Project Manager
Crystal Mitchell, AIA, LEED AP, Architect
Matthew Hostetler, LEED AP, Job Captain
Robin Roussel, Interior Designer
Randy McCaffrey, Construction Administrator

OWNER/CLIENT

Louisiana Recovery School District
New Orleans, LA
Ronald Bordelon, Chief Facilities Officer
504/373-6200

KEY STATS

Grades Served: PreK-8
Capacity: 788 students
Size of Site: 3.1 acres
Building Area: 106,000 gsf
Space per Student: 134.5 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$32,233
Square Foot Cost: \$240
Project Cost: \$25,400,000
Completion Date: August 2015
Sustainability Rating Status: LEED SILVER (certified)

PHOTOGRAPHY: MICHAEL PALUMBO