



MIDDLE SCHOOL/INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Prairie Winds Middle School Mankato, MN



Building a new middle school allowed the Mankato Area Public School district to relieve crowding at the combined Junior/Senior High School, but also to restructure into a Middle School delivery model. The LEED-designed building is comprised of two, north-facing daylit academic wings organized around the Learning and Cafeteria Commons, which serve as the central connecting points to the academic wings, athletic wing, and student and public entries.

Views of forested wetlands to the north of the building are available from the Learning Commons and Flexible Learning Areas outside classrooms. Liberal use of glass puts learning on display and allows students the freedom to work and learn in a variety of settings, all while being easily supervised by staff. Technology to support integration of personal devices is incorporated throughout the school and scale-up labs support AVID and college-readiness curriculum. Operable glass walls allow the barrier between classrooms and Flexible Learning Areas to be broken down, creating opportunity for co-teaching and supporting personalized learning.

With guidance from the Core Planning Group, consisting

of school staff, district administration, parents and students, the design team was able to create open and welcoming spaces that provide flexibility for the present and future.

New Construction/Addition

Entire school/campus building

Wold Architects and Engineers

332 Minnesota St., Ste. W2000
St Paul, MN 55101
woldae.com
Paul Aplikowski
651/227-7773

IS Group

Mankato, MN
is-grp.com/

DESIGN TEAM

IS Group, Exterior Architectural Design, Civil Engineer, Structural Engineer
Paul Aplikowski, AIA, LEED-AP, Educational Planner, Principal-in-Charge
Andrew Dahlquist, LEED-AP, Project Manager
Artemis Ettsen, Architectural Designer
Samantha Epping, Interior Designer

OWNER/CLIENT

ISD 77 Mankato Area Public Schools
Mankato, MN
Sheri Allen, Superintendent
507/387-1868

KEY STATS

Grades Served: 6-8
Capacity: 1,100 Students
Size of Site: 80 acres
Building Area: 183,000 gsf
Space per Student: 166 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$38,864
Square Foot Cost: \$234
Project Cost: \$42,750,000
Completion Date: September 2016
Sustainability Rating Status: Applied for LEED GOLD

PHOTOGRAPHY: TROY THIES PHOTOGRAPHY

