



## Tioga School Bensenville, IL

### New Construction/Addition Entire School/Campus Building

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#### DESIGN TEAM

CS2 Design Group, MEP Engineering  
C.E. Anderson & Associates, Structural  
Engineering  
Gilbane Building Company, Construction  
Manager

#### OWNER/CLIENT

Bensenville Elementary School District 2  
Bensenville, IL  
Dr. James Stelter  
630/766-5940

#### KEY STATS

Grades Served: Pre-K-5  
Capacity: 750 students  
Size of Site: 11 acres  
Building Volume: 1.1 million cu. ft.  
Space per Student: 121 sq. ft.  
Cost per Student: \$25,215  
Square Foot Cost: \$208  
Construction Cost: \$18.9 million  
Total Project Cost: \$22.5 million  
Contract Date: Mar.-Oct. 2011  
Completed: Aug. 2012

PHOTOGRAPHY: STEVE HALL, HEDRICH BLESSING

Tioga School directly addresses the district's philosophy of school as a community of learners and its need for team teaching, peer tutoring, hands-on technology, collaboration, and project-based and informal learning.

In order to create this new elementary school, a nearby school was closed and demolished, and a new addition to an existing school was designed to create an entirely new 122,400-square-foot building. The remaining existing school is slated for demolition in a year.

White brick exteriors are complemented with bright color accents in windows and exterior pavement. These help to define scale and identity, reinforced by the use of color in cheery interior furnishings, walls, and floors. The result is a happy, vibrant learning environment.

The primary building block of the school is classrooms paired with two interaction rooms between them for small-group or one-on-one instruction to complement the basic classroom. Double doors to the larger interaction rooms can also be left open to create a collaborative learning



environment between adjacent classrooms. For flexibility, each classroom is designed with storage, a sink and teacher workstations concealed behind sliding

marker-board clad doors.

Classrooms are grouped into houses of 6 pairs of classrooms, one for each grade (PreK-5). All houses are differentiated by color for identity and interest. Each house includes locker cubbies, student common areas for informal instruction, toilet facilities and group storage. An innovation lab supplements the core classroom areas. This flexible space, large enough for three classrooms, handles testing, project collaboration, performances, and large-group instruction.

To encourage informal learning and interaction, each building extends learning spaces through outdoor reading and learning areas that include seating. The Contemplation Bridge connects two wings of the school and overlooks a landscaped court.

