



Odyssey Elementary School

Woods Cross, UT

New Construction/ Addition

Entire school/campus building

VCBO Architecture
524 South 600 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84102
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Jeanne Jackson, FAIA
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DESIGN TEAM

Jeanne Jackson, FAIA, LEED AP, Design
Principal
John Oderda, AIA, Project Manager

OWNER/CLIENT

Davis County School District
Farmington, UT
Dr. Bryan Bowles
801/402-5258

KEY STATS

Grades Served: Pre-K-6
Capacity: 900 students
Size of Site: 12 acres
Building Area: 84,758 sq. ft.
Space per Student: 94 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$16,343
Square Foot Cost: \$173
Construction Cost: \$147,090,800
Project Cost: \$17,528,400
Completion Date: August 2014
Sustainability Rating System/Applied/
Status/Level: LEED with Level Gold

PHOTOGRAPHY: PRESTON NORRIS



Odyssey Elementary is an educationally innovative school built around the theme of Bodies in Motion: The Animal Kingdom. The school champions the importance of healthy, active lifestyles and helps students understand their place in nature. It is a net-zero facility that has successfully become the greenest, most energy-efficient public school in the state of Utah. Odyssey is on-track to earn a LEED Gold Certification. Utterly unique in its design, it accommodates any learning modality the teachers wish to implement.

There are four learning wings at Odyssey—groups of classrooms called “habitats”—red, orange, blue and green. Each habitat corresponds to one of the thematic motions of the school (Run, Jump, Swim, and Fly), and includes eight classrooms, a central collaboration area, teacher prep and storage areas and toilet room facilities.



The organization of students into habitats reduces anonymity and encourages collaboration. Classrooms are designed with a 16-foot-wide roll-up glass door, allowing them to combine with the collaboration space or other classrooms. Every classroom door light bears the image of an animal that performs the motion of the house (a kangaroo rat, a shark, etc.). Critical to the success of the project is the totally unique furnishing package of mobile chairs, tables, stools and ottomans that students move at a moment's notice to accommodate different learning scenarios.

The landscape also represents the ways creatures move with plant materials and sculptural concrete. On the north side, footfall patterns show up in concrete textures and benches. In the courtyard, the idea of flight or swimming and the swirling vortices created by beating wings or fins are represented with benches and planter forms. On the south side, jumping is represented using benches indicating a springing motion. The building is carefully oriented to best take advantage of daylighting.

Building spaces are multiuse for efficiently. The dining area is integrated into the circulation. Large glass doors between the dining area and the multipurpose room lift for use as an auditorium. There are no computer labs because technology is integrated into the classrooms. The walls and hallways of the building are peppered with inspirational quotes, encouraging students and patrons alike to do their best and make a difference the world. Portals that open into the habitats include intriguing signage regarding the animals that run, jump, swim and fly. Images of athletic activities serve to further inspire students.

