



HIGH SCHOOL

Hermantown High School

Hermantown, MN



The Hermantown High School project actually began from the need to replace the outdated middle school. In evaluating needs across the district, it became apparent that building a new high school and relocating the middle school students to the existing high school would provide benefits for all. The project evolved into a major addition of a new high school on the existing building to take advantage of shared spaces and promote greater program connection for students during transitional years.

The design team, comprised of a wide variety of district and community stakeholders, set out to create a learning environment inspired by a Northern Minnesota palette

New Construction/Addition

Entire school/campus building

Wold Architects and Engineers

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DESIGN TEAM

Ken Johnson, AIA, Principal-in-Charge
Ron Stanius, AIA, Project Principal
Vaughn Dierks, AIA LEED AP, Design Manager
Lynae Schoen, IIDA LEED AP BD+C, Interior Designer
Kraus-Anderson, Construction Manager

OWNER/CLIENT

Hermantown School District
Hermantown, MN
Kerry Juntunen, Superintendent
218/728-8874

KEY STATS

Grades Served: 9-12
Capacity: 1,400 for 5-12 (total); 700 for 9-12 (add'l)
Size of Site: 191 acres
Building Area: 134,000 gsf(new); 246,000 gsf (total)
Space per Student: 192 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$56,000
Square Foot Cost: \$263 (new); \$65 (renovation)
Project Cost: \$39,200,000
Completion Date: August 2016

PHOTOGRAPHY: STEVE SILVERMAN PHOTOGRAPHY



where every space had the possibility of being usable educational space for staff, students, and the community as a whole. The end result is a two-story building organized around two cores for gathering—a digital commons and student commons. Classrooms, labs, support spaces, and conference rooms surround the digital commons, which is a re-envisioned concept of the media center with a variety of learning spaces without traditional bookshelves.

Active areas of kitchen, office, athletics, and performing arts surround the student commons for dining, lobby space, and other large group and community functions. Additionally, the concept of large group presentation space was explored as a means of developing student verbal and graphic skills. To make this space accessible after hours, it was located adjacent to the auditorium to serve multiple functions as theater lobby, performance/presentation space, and learning area.

The resulting building has minimal corridors, with all other space focused on extensions of the learning environment beyond the classroom walls. Support space for independent work, group projects, and special education areas are located alongside classrooms to encourage different styles of integrated learning. The entire project is a shift towards self-guided learning and flexibility.

