

## **THE EDUCATIONAL CONCEPT**

The Fort Recovery Community can be extremely proud of the team effort that was put into the design of our new school. Countless hours were spent coordinating the ideas of the community, staff, parents, students, engineers, and architects in order to create such an exciting, functional, and beautiful facility for learning.

The new school houses up to 1,000 students in pre-school through eighth grade and covers 124,150 square feet. The design is unique in that the entire school is organized around a central commons area called "Main Street". This area is designed to resemble our historic downtown including brick streets, historic building fronts, old-fashioned streetlights, canvas awnings, and even a reconstruction of Fort Recovery's old movie theater.

Part of the educational success behind our school system stems from our history of giving all students personal attention by utilizing several small schools. Our large new facility is designed so that we can continue our current success and build upon it in the future. The new school is divided into four smaller sections called "Neighborhoods". Each neighborhood is designed to be like its own school with its own staff planning rooms, instructional material storage rooms, extended learning space, restrooms, and direct access to both the outdoors and to Main Street. This allows staff and students to work together within each neighborhood to develop individual teaching and learning methods, schedules, and curriculums. Even the carpet pattern in each neighborhood follows the theme by representing sidewalks and grassy lawns, and each neighborhood street has a name reflecting prominent people in Fort Recovery's past.

The center of the school is the heart, and in it you find the media center and the administrative area. Both enter off Main Street and look appropriate with their stone-like painted fronts. The south side of Main Street houses public spaces that are highlighted with our school colors, while the neighborhoods on the north side have individual color schemes.

There are two large multi-purpose assembly spaces allowing for creative usage by not only the school, but the entire community. The auditoria is a performance space with the capacity to seat 550 very comfortably in loose chairs on its carpeted tiered floor. This space, with a fully rigged stage, is well equipped for the sound and lighting required for theatrical and music performances. During school hours it functions as the dining space for the student body. The gymnasium is full sized with bleacher seating for 500. This space can be divided by a large curtain into two cross courts to allow two physical education classes to occur simultaneously.

Other types of spaces that are carefully designed in our new school are: two large art rooms for both elementary students and middle school students, a full service kitchen, student locker rooms with individual showers, a central storage area with a dock lift, two large vocal music rooms that open up into one very large space, an instrumental music room that serves as a warm-up room for the stage, one self contained computer lab and a computer lab located inside the media center.

Educational technology is utilized throughout the school with 4 computers in each classroom for students and one for each teacher. Fiber optic cables are used to connect different parts of the building together as well as to connect the new school to the high school. Large television monitors are located throughout the school for the display of educational media as well as important school messages. Media can be loaded from the media center and displayed anywhere throughout the building with local control from each classroom.

The entire building is temperature controlled and air-conditioned to ensure year around comfort. The mechanical systems are designed to be efficient to operate and easy to maintain ensuring many years of use. The site is designed to allow easy and logical flow of traffic. Student bus drop-off and pick-up is located on the north side of the school, while staff and visitor vehicular traffic is located on the south side. To provide extra student security there is a separate gated kindergarten/pre-school drop-off loop and a fenced playground. A student bike path and sidewalk are designed to enter the complex from the north without ever crossing the bus drive. Outside the media center a gazebo structure is located to provide an outdoor learning space. Many shade trees and landscaping are planned to enhance the site. Also planned are exterior play and athletic areas including basketball facilities and practice football fields.

We hope that our new school serves the students and community of Fort Recovery with excellence not only today, but into the future. Please enjoy the facility!

