

Entire School/Campus
Building
New Construction

VLK ARCHITECTS, INC.
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DESIGN TEAM

Ratcliff Constructors, Inc.,
General Contractor
Kalman Marshall Engineering,
Inc., MEP Engineering
L.A. Fuess Partners, Inc.,
Structural Engineering
Teague Nall and Perkins, Inc.,
Civil Engineering
Image Engineering, Ltd.,
Geothermal
The Landscape Alliance,
Landscape Architecture

OWNER/CLIENT

Eagle Mountain-Saginaw
Independent School District
Saginaw, TX
Dr. Cole Pugh, Superintendent
817/232-0880
Type of School and Grades
Served: Elem., Middle,
K-5 & 6-8
Capacity: 850 Elem.
& 1,100 Middle
Size of Site: 33 acres
Area of Building: 91,000 s.f.,
Elem. & 151,400 s.f., Middle
Volume of Building: 1.7 million
cubic feet, Elem. &
3 million cubic feet, Middle
Space per Student: 107 s.f.,
Elem. & 138 s.f., Middle
Cost per Student: \$12,492, Elem.
& \$15,082, Middle
Square Foot Cost: \$131 Elem.,
& \$130, Middle
Cost of Construction:
\$10.6 million, Elem. &
\$16.6 million, Middle
Total Project Cost: \$12 million,
Elem. & \$19.8 million, Middle
Contract Date: Feb. 2006

COMBINED-LEVEL SCHOOLS

Comanche Springs Elementary and Prairie Vista Middle Schools

Fort Worth, Texas

VLK Architects, Inc.

Constructed simultaneously, Comanche Springs Elementary School and Prairie Vista Middle School share a 33-acre site. The shared site allows for a single drop-off and pick-up location, making it convenient for parents with students at both campuses and for bus circulation.

The 91,000-square-foot prototype elementary school uses a two-story plan that minimizes the building footprint and separates grade levels. The main corridor features a cityscape, which brings a human scale as well as way-finding



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MAIN ENTRANCE



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CITYSCAPE

for students. The administration suite, located at the main entrance, creates a physical security presence all visitors must go through to enter. Kindergarten to second-grade classrooms are on the first floor along with core spaces, such as the library, cafeteria, and administration. Third to fifth grades are housed on the second floor. The two-story design allows for windows in every classroom, introducing natural light into the learning environment.

Comanche Springs also features sustainable design. It is the first elementary school in the district to employ a geothermal heating and cooling system. Sunscreens and solar shading around the perimeter of the building introduce natural light into the school and reduce energy costs. This adds versatility and increases site adaptability. In addition, multiple drop-off locations decrease



MIDDLE SCHOOL MAIN ENTRANCE



MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIUM

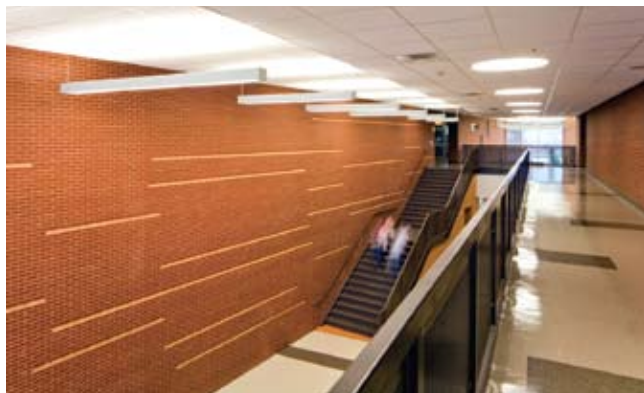
congestion during arrival and dismissal.

From the circular reception desk to the round light fixtures, a circular theme is used throughout the library. This theme is also visible on the exterior with a half-round wall of glass, which filters natural light into the space, providing a well-lit and enjoyable area for story time and reading. The school's design incorporates color, imagination, and geometry to create an environment that is student friendly and full of life.

Prairie Vista Middle School serves 1,100 students in grades 6 through 8. The administration suite and library are the focal points of the building. The library, located on the

second floor, is central to the academic block and symbolically embraces learning and the community. The school is designed to separate academic areas from shared public spaces, such as the gymnasium and cafetorium. The two-story academic wing incorporates classrooms, science labs, technology lab, art classrooms, and special education classrooms.

The gentle curve featured on the front facade of the building is articulated by the simple massing of the music suite and highlights major spaces such as the library and the cafetorium. Separate bus and parent drop-off areas are provided, as well as ample parking for visitors, faculty, staff, and extracurricular events. ■



MIDDLE SCHOOL CORRIDOR AND STAIRWELL



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUS LOOP ENTRANCE

PHOTOS: CHAD M. DAVIS, AIA