IRVING ELEMENTARY

Architect: SAPP Design Architects, Associates
Grades served: K-5
Capacity: 650 students
Site area: 13.5 acres
Building area: 88,400 sq. ft.
Project cost: $18.5 million

SOARING HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

Architect: Hollis + Miller Architects
Grades served: K-5
Capacity: 450 students
Site area: 34.85 acres
Building area: 65,290 sq. ft.
Project cost: $13.6 million

EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL

Architect: Hollis + Miller Architects
Grades served: 6-8
Capacity: 750 students
Site area: 34.85 acres
Building area: 157,273 sq. ft.
Project cost: $32.7 million

■ On May 22, 2011, one of the most destructive tornadoes in the nation's history tore through Joplin and Duquesne, Missouri, flattening homes, businesses, and schools. The Joplin School District lost five schools, including two elementary schools and one middle school.

Irving Elementary and Emerson Elementary were among the destroyed schools. The new Irving Elementary will house both Irving and Emerson students. Plans for the Emerson property will be developed by the school district as the community rebuilds and residents return to the neighborhoods that were in the path of the storm.

The new Soaring Heights Elementary also replaces one of the destroyed elementary schools and will serve students from Duquesne and Duenweg, Missouri. Duquesne and Duenweg students were combined into one school after the disaster to provide a temporary space for former Emerson students whose school was destroyed.

East Middle School was also among the destroyed schools. East was only two years old at the time of the disaster. A renovated warehouse space in Joplin's industrial park has served as a temporary location for East Middle School students since the tornado.

On January 6, 2014, the two-and-a-half year journey to rebuild these schools will end, and the new Irving Elementary, Soaring Heights Elementary, and East Middle School will open for students and staff. The spaces may be new, but they will seem familiar to the students, teachers, parents, and school administrators who came together to provide the architects with a vision for the schools and design ideas to support education. The result of that collaboration: dynamic 21st Century Learning environments filled with colorful, flexible spaces designed to promote learning. ■

IRVING ELEMENTARY

2901 S. McClelland Blvd. | Joplin, MO 64804

SOARING HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

4594 E. 20th St. | Joplin, MO 64804

EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL

4594 E. 20th St. | Joplin, MO 64804

A special thanks to our architects and contractors:

BUILT RIGHT. PERIOD. UNIVERSAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. | SAPP DESIGN ARCHITECTS | mfec Malone Finkle Eckhardt & Collins, Inc. | hollis + miller architects | HENDERSON ENGINEERS

Joplin Schools

3901 E. 32nd St., Joplin, MO 64804 | 417-625-5200 | joplinschools.org

These new buildings were designed with students in mind. While there are similar characteristics shared between Irving Elementary, Soaring Heights Elementary, and East Middle School, each school possesses its own unique features to provide students the best opportunities to learn, collaborate, and explore.

learn collaborate explore

ADAPTIVE LEARNING SPACES



- Natural light enhances energy efficiency and boosts learning.
- Common spaces for both students and staff foster collaborative activities.
- Special rooms for messy projects and outdoor activities offer students appropriate learning environments.
- Unique classrooms for specialized programs allow for staff to share resources and serve students more efficiently. This minimizes the time students spend out of class.
- Windows and glass walls in classrooms increase accountability and showcases learning for all students and staff to view, including art classes where "art on display" promotes creativity.
- Collapsible seating, movable walls, and learning stairs provide numerous multi-purpose spaces.
- The efficient building layout at Irving simplifies student travel between classes and activities. The purposeful design and building layout at Soaring Heights and East reduces square footage, aids student traffic flow, and enables the two schools to share resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



- Large windows and skylights capture daylight and lower energy costs by minimizing the use of artificial lighting.
- A building management system controls fresh air, temperatures, and lighting.
- Energy efficient lighting is used throughout.
- A stronger thermal envelope reduces heating and cooling costs.
- Hydronic HVAC equipment allows for low operational and maintenance costs.
- Water bottle refill and recycling stations decrease waste and teach students responsibility.
- Low-flow plumbing fixtures reduce water consumption and waste.
- No-touch restrooms and hand dryers minimize paper usage.
- Building material selections help reduce ongoing maintenance costs: stainless steel handrails, split face block, brick, aluminum light poles, etc.
- 70% of building materials are regional or Joplin-specific: roofing, concrete block, lighting fixtures, etc.
- The conjoined building at East and Soaring Heights decreases the schools' carbon footprint by sharing building services.

SAFETY FEATURES

- Separate parent and bus pick-up / drop-off locations allow for safer morning and after-school routines. A new walking trail on 24th Street allows for safer student foot traffic.
- Separate entrances and exits at Soaring Heights and East ensure students remain in their designated buildings.
- FEMA storm shelters at each building provide protection to students, staff, and the community. Each school has a safe room solely for students and staff. Irving and Soaring Heights have additional safe rooms open to the community during inclement weather that also serve as gymnasiums.
- In case of emergency, distress buttons release security doors that isolate classroom wings.
- Playgrounds and theaters surpass ADA requirements.
- Accessible features such as hi-lo lifts are included in special education classrooms and bathrooms.



TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

- New technology-driven learning labs will improve teacher instruction and student presentations. LCD panels ensure student visibility and can display a variety of content.
- Elementary iPad® and laptop carts increase access to mobile technology devices and improve student and teacher flexibility. Community areas for multi-class collaboration mean classes are no longer anchored to classrooms.
- Apple® TV's in each classroom simplify presenting and collaborating and offer video and streaming capabilities.

OUTDOOR ELEMENTS

- Outdoor learning stairs, stages, and classrooms provide functional space for learning and playing outdoors.
- Walking trails, learning ponds, and activity walls encourage students and staff to spend more time outside.
- Playgrounds fitted with age-appropriate equipment allow for safe and stimulating play time.

INSPIRATIONAL CULTURE



- Areas designed for different types of learning offer students a versatile experience at school.
- Thoughtful color choices and architectural elements support inspiration, exploration, and creativity.
- Each building possesses uniquely themed spaces to reflect the culture of the school.
- Prior to flooring installation, parents and staff wrote encouraging messages on the concrete.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION



- Commemorative components in the new schools honor the past, including the relocation of the cornerstone from the old Irving to the new school, the relocation of the bell from Duquesne to Soaring Heights, and the large wall graphics at Irving, East, and Soaring Heights depicting images of previous facilities.
- Each new school features a time capsule that will preserve mementos relevant to the 2013-2014 school year.

"Irving is truly a kid-friendly building – designed with kids and for kids."

- Michael Sapp, SAPP Design Architects

"We enthusiastically collaborated with staff, students, and parents to co-design innovative learning spaces unique to the Joplin experience."

- John Brown, Hollis + Miller

May 22, 2011 Schools destroyed

August 17, 2011 Temporary schools open

August 2011 Research begins for developing new schools

December 2011 Staff, students, and parents collaborate with architects on design

February 2012 Board of Education approves design plans

April 3, 2012 $62 million bond request passes

May 22, 2012 Ground-breaking ceremonies for new buildings

July 2012 Construction begins at Soaring Heights and East Middle School

August 2012 Construction begins at Irving

January 6, 2014 First day of school in new buildings