Sundown Elementary School

Katy Independent School District

Board Presentation

November 16, 2026

HKS

KATY

School Entrance



Acknowledgments

Katy ISD Board Members

Dr. Ken Gregorski - Superintendent
Lance Redmon - President
Dawn Champagne - Vice-President
James Cross - Secretary
Cicely Taylor - Board Member
Jim Davidson - Board Member
Nathan Shipley - Board Member

Design Team

Kari Nelson Torres - Sundown Elementary School Principal
Ted Vierling - Chief Operations Officer
Lisa Kassman - Executive Director of Facilities Planning & Construction
Megan Irvin - Construction Project Manager

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Project Introduction

Introduction

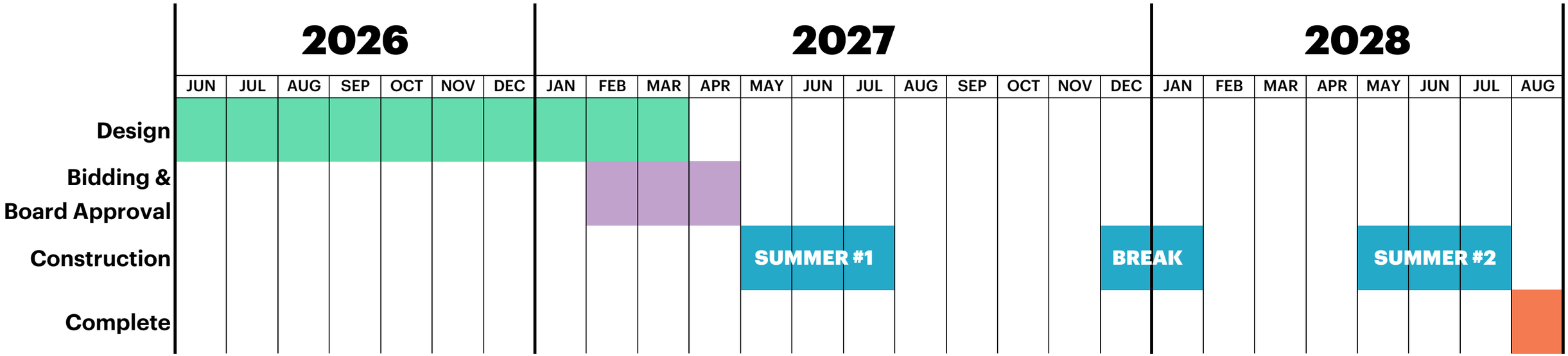
Sundown Elementary School opened in 1982 and serves Katy ISD students in Pre-Kindergarten through fifth grade. Previous campus improvements include a roof replacement in 2004, a building addition and renovation in 2008, clinic and front office modifications in 2017, and building controls upgrades in 2020.

As part of the 2023 Bond, Katy ISD identified Sundown Elementary as a priority for comprehensive renovation. HKS joined the team as the architect to address aging building components, improve student learning environments, and better align the campus with current District educational programs and facility standards.

Comprehensive campus renovation:

- Building Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing Systems
- Interior Spaces
- Security and Technology Systems

Schedule



Guiding Principles

Framework for consensus derived decisions rooted in district priorities and outcomes.

JOYFUL EXPERIENCES

Create playful moments that spark wonder and make learning feel joyful everyday.

FLOW & FUNCTION

Organize space typologies to create more intentional use of space that responds to today's teaching and learning pedagogy.

INVESTED COMMUNITY

Celebrate the campus as a community hub where every student, teacher, and family feels like they belong.

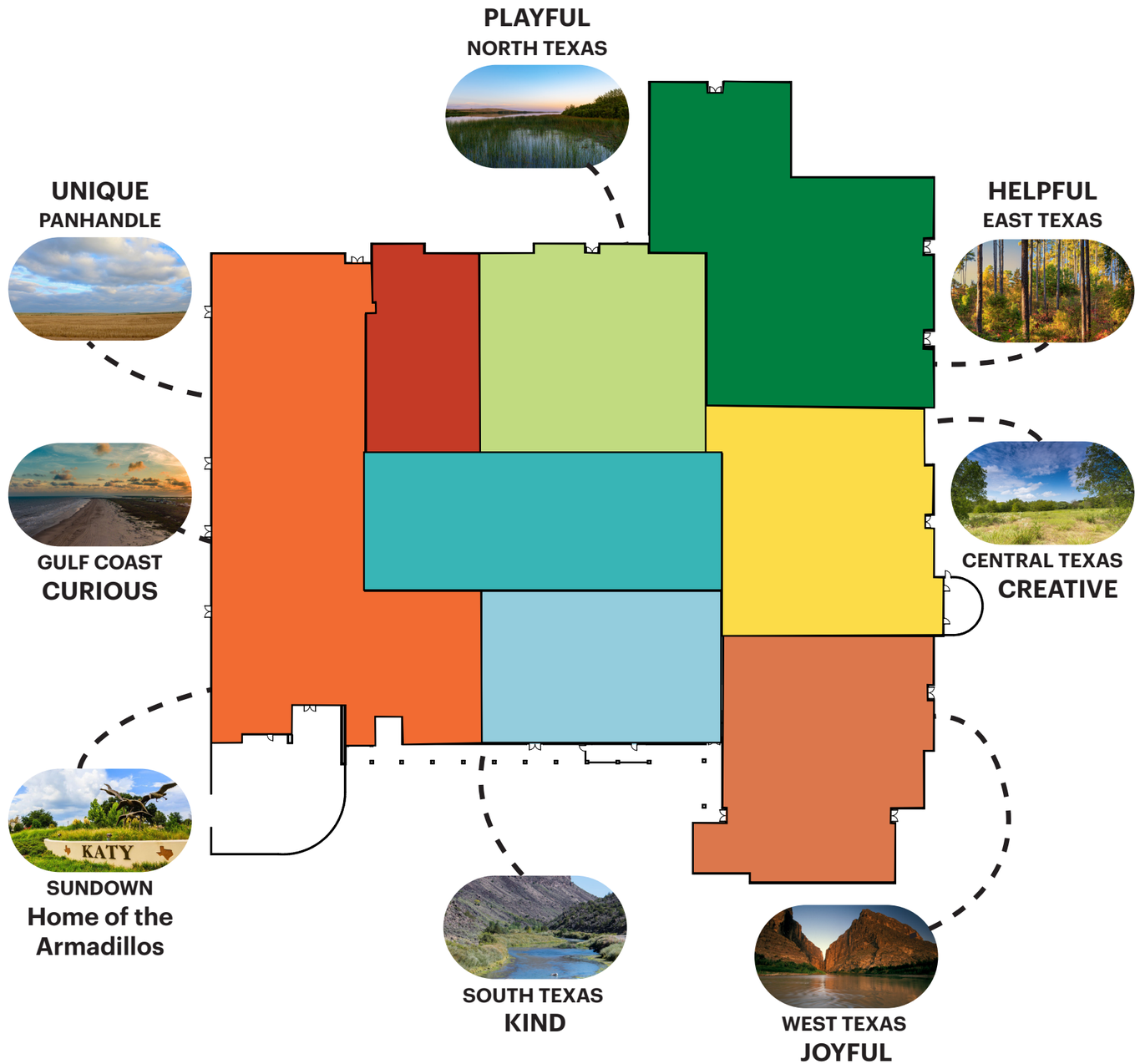
BUILDING RESILIENCE

Update critical infrastructure to lengthen the lifespan of the building and continue the legacy of Sundown.

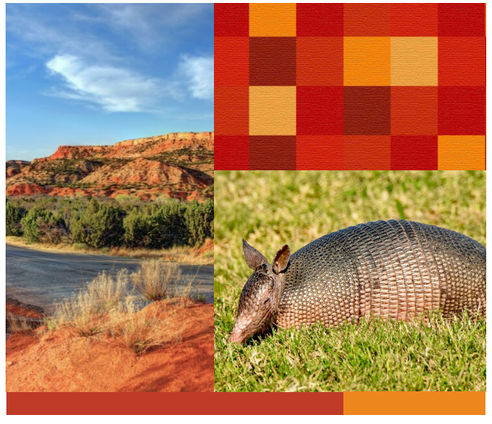
Armadillo Adventurers

Inspired by diverse environments, cultures, and landscapes that make Texas unique and that armadillos call home, the new Sundown Elementary becomes an immersive environment where the Armadillo's travel through the Lone Star State.

As students progress through their education and move from one grade to the next, learning neighbohoods embody the color and natural environments of Texas and a positive character word for the Armadillo's to learn from.



Concept Summary



PANHANDLE
UNIQUE



NORTH TEXAS
PLAYFUL



EAST TEXAS
HELPFUL



SOUTH TEXAS
KIND



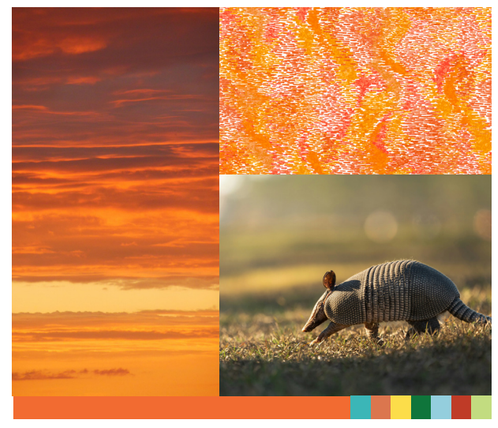
WEST TEXAS
JOYFUL



CENTRAL TEXAS
CREATIVE

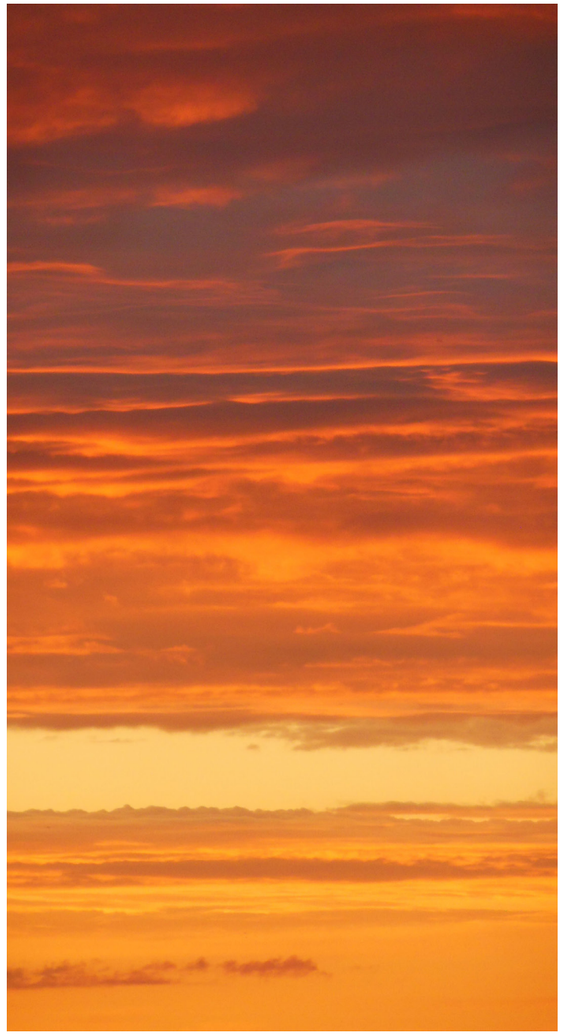


GULF COAST
CURIOUS



SUNDOWN
HOME OF THE ARMADILLO

Design Motif Inspiration

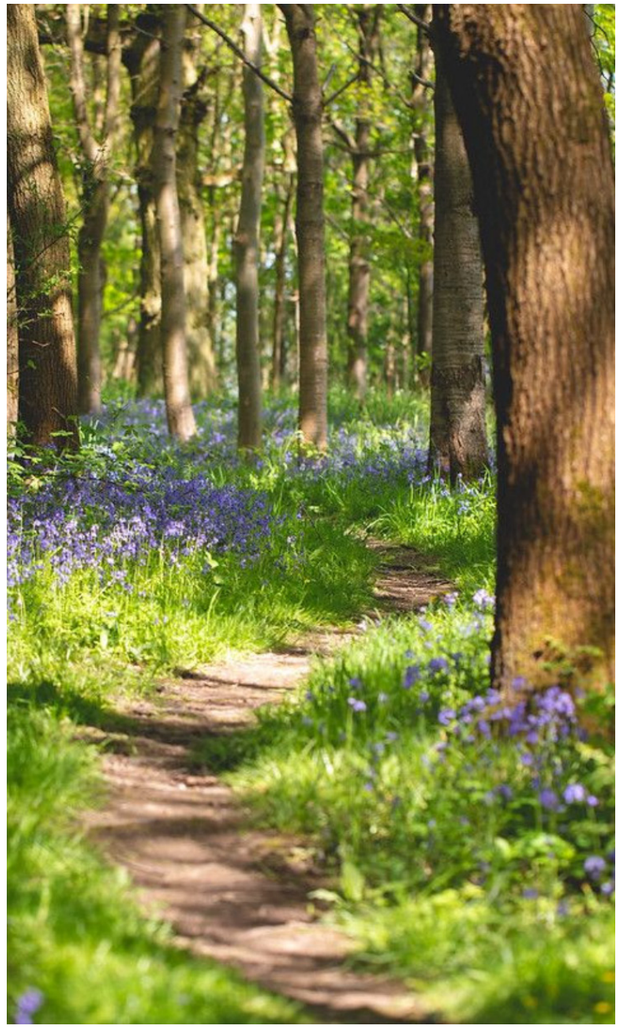






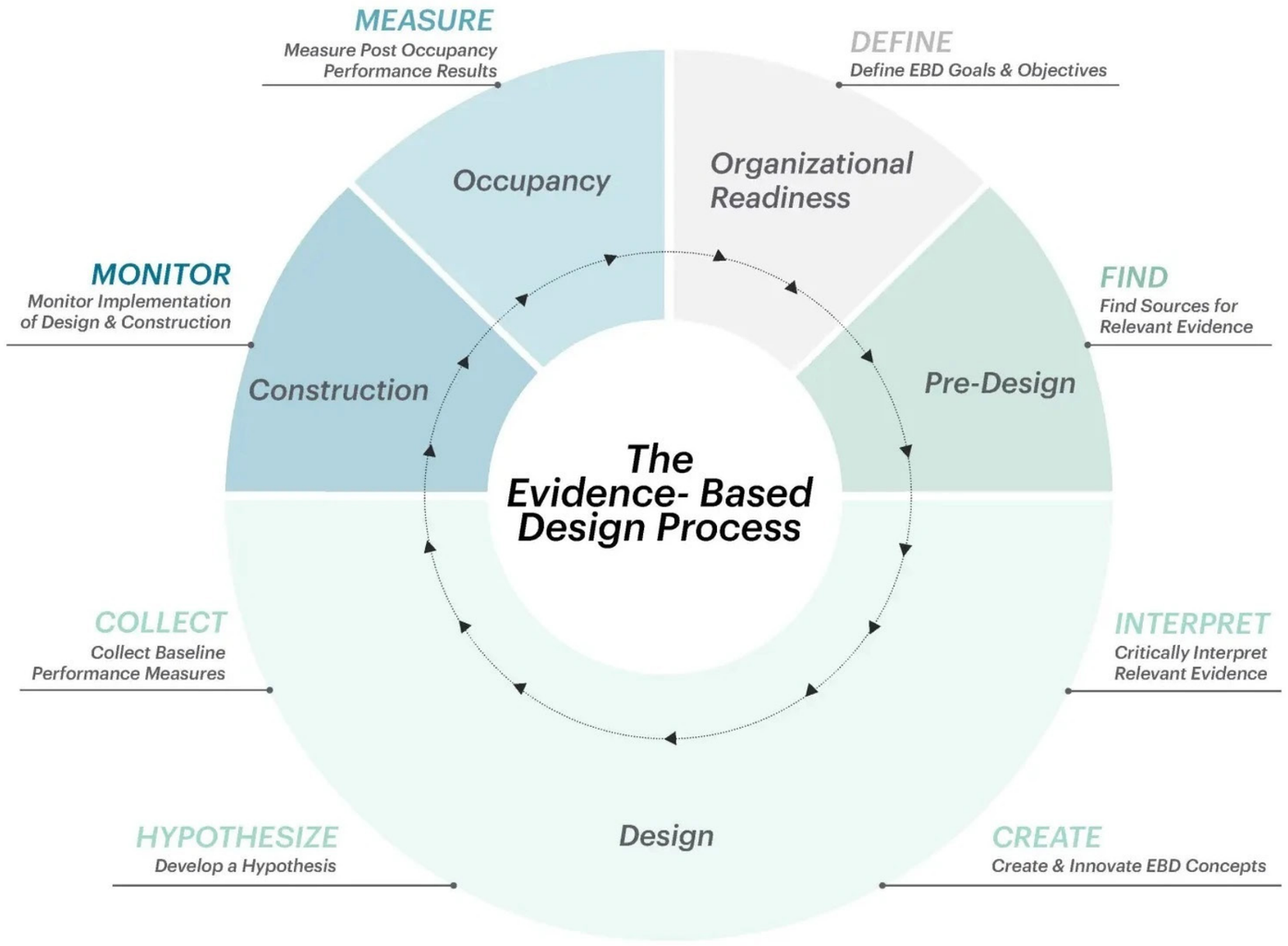






EVIDENCE-BASED DESIGN PROCESS

Every school design decision influences how students learn, how teachers teach, and how the building performs over time. Our research process begins by examining published studies, industry findings, and lessons learned to identify evidence-based strategies that inform design decisions. This process establishes a clear rationale for balancing student experience, operational needs, and cost, helping districts make confident, informed choices and apply findings to future projects



Existing Conditions

The school is located at 20100 Saums Road in Houston, Texas.

1. General Classrooms

Existing classrooms will benefit from refreshed finishes, upgraded casework, and new instructional technology to better support teaching and learning.

2. Special Education

A revised layout is needed to provide appropriately sized spaces and greater flexibility for current and future programs. The area also lacks a dedicated SPED circulation corridor.

3. Library

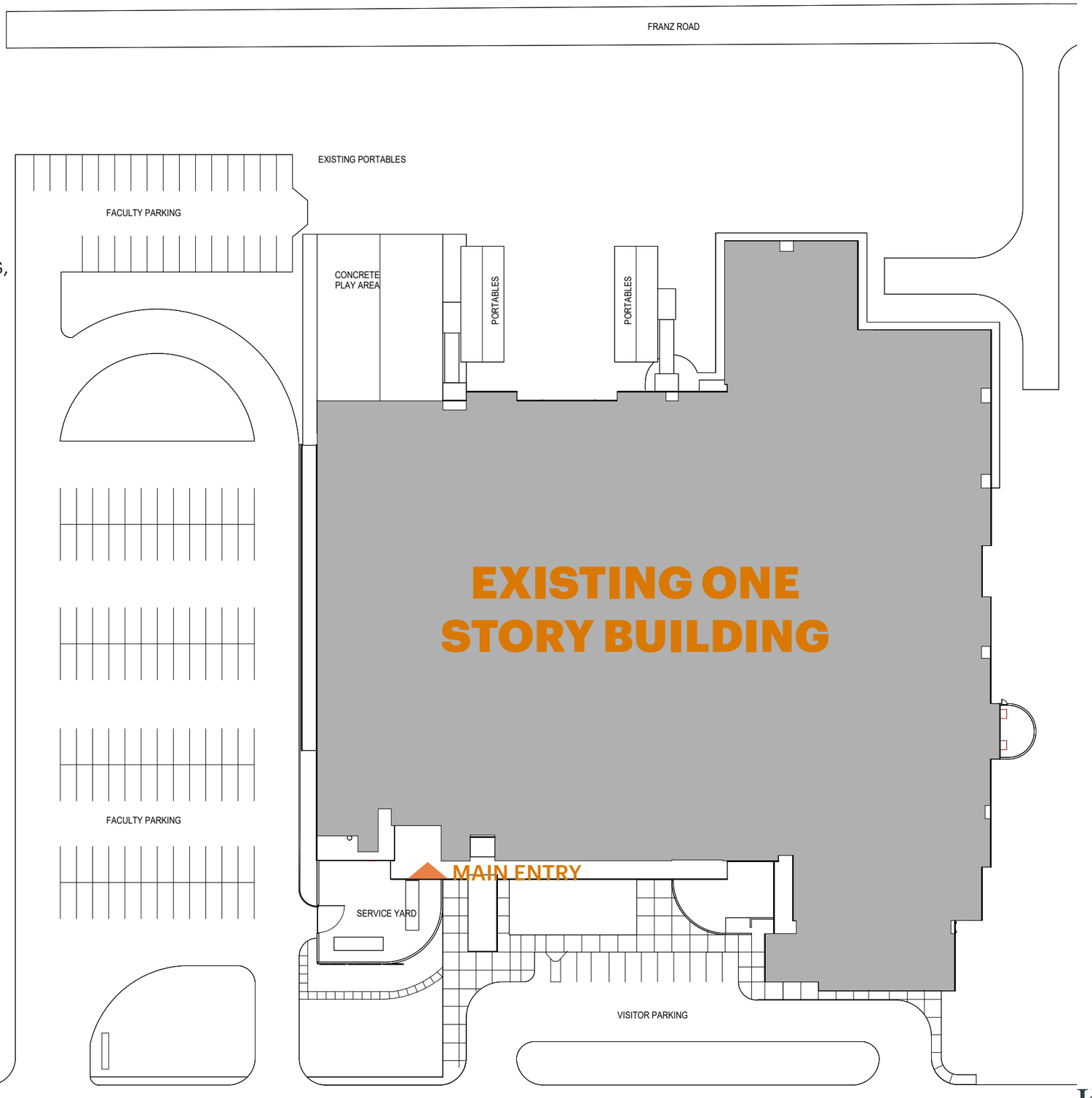
Open to adjacent corridors, creating noise and distractions. Existing ramps present accessibility challenges, and instructional areas lack clear organization.

4. Administration

Existing layout is missing required District program spaces and has inefficient circulation and limited storage.

5. Restrooms

Fully renovating for students and adding restrooms for staff.



Proposed Renovations

Site Improvements

The proposed site improvements are focused on accessibility, campus security, life safety, and District identification.

Interior Renovations

Interior spaces throughout the campus will receive new or refinished flooring, wall finishes, ceilings, casework, doors, frames, and hardware as indicated. Existing elements to remain will be refreshed to coordinate with the new interior finish scheme.

1. General Classrooms – Updated finishes, casework, lighting, and instructional technology create refreshed environments that support teaching and learning.

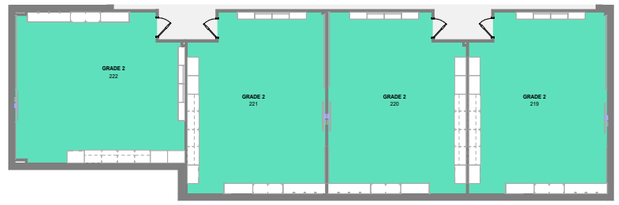
2. Special Education – Reconfigured with appropriately sized instructional spaces, improved program adjacencies, and a dedicated SPED circulation corridor.

3. Library – Enclosed and reorganized to provide improved accessibility, acoustics, supervision, and dedicated reading, teaching, computer, and flexible-learning areas.

4. Administration – Reorganized within its existing location to provide District-required spaces, improved circulation and access, and additional storage.

5. Restrooms – Fully renovated with ADA-compliant layouts, new plumbing fixtures, partitions, accessories, and durable interior finishes.

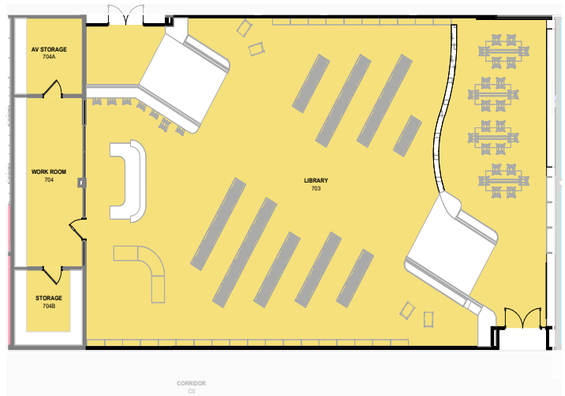
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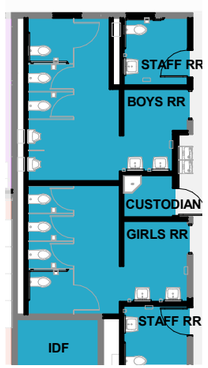
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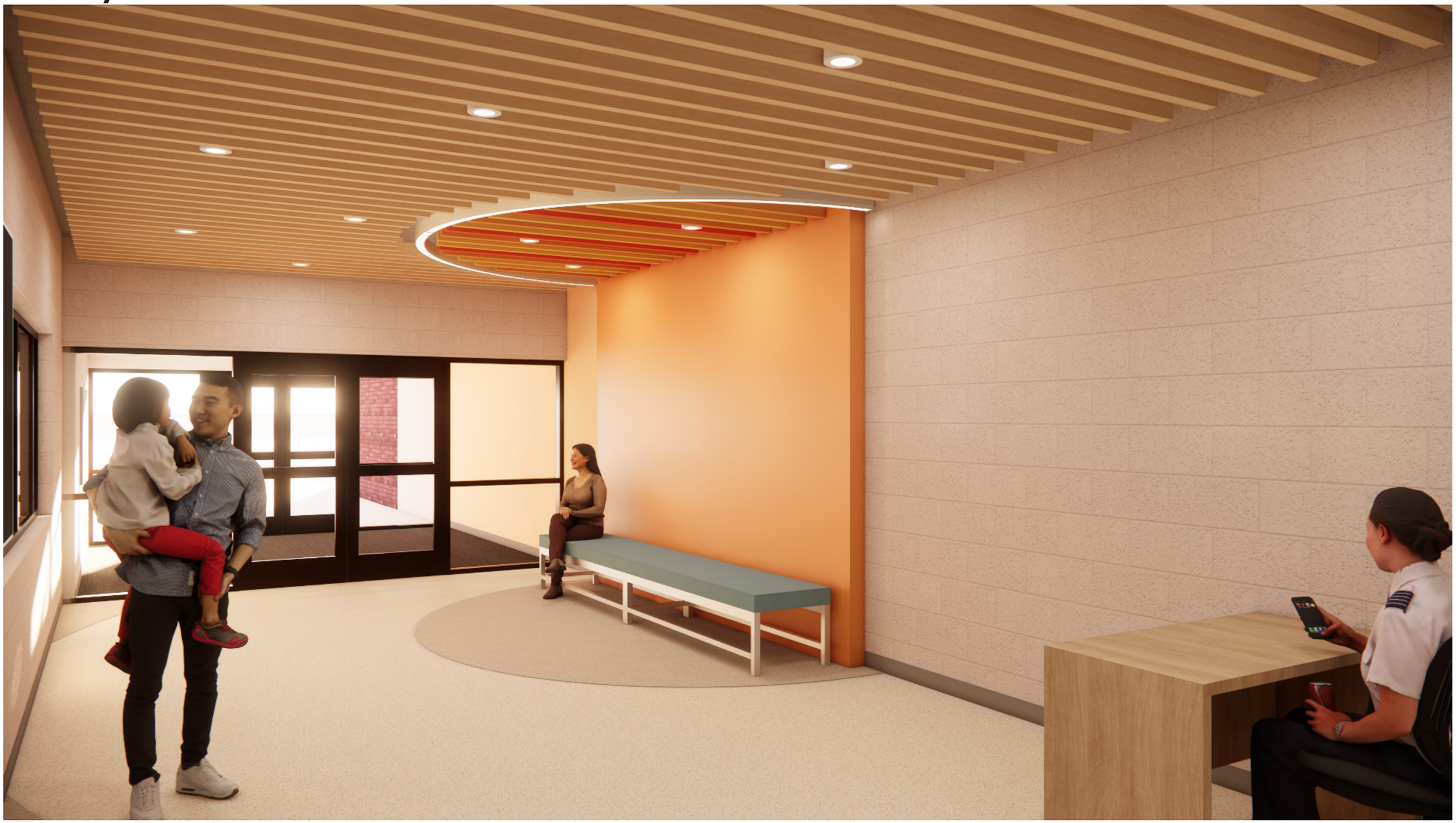
4.



5.



Lobby - 3D View



Cafeteria - 3D View



Gym - 3D View



Corridor - 3D View



Library - 3D View





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