JOHN ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS MASTER PLAN Santa Monica - Malibu Unifed School District

BERLINER ARCHITECTS



As a second

PROJECT TEAM

Client

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Santa Monica - Malibu Unified School District

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
PROJECT LOCATION AND ADJACENCIES	4
CAMPUS ANALYSIS	5
CAMPUS ASSESSMENT - TEACHER INTERVIEWS	6
CAMPUS ASSESSMENT - WORKSHOPS	7
CONCEPTS & IMAGERY	8
GENERAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND APPROACH	9
TEAM SOLUTIONS	13
CAMPUS EXPLORATIONS	15
PRIORITIZED PROJECTS FOR THE JAMS CAMPUS	16



JOHN ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL (JAMS)

"The mission of John Adams middle school is to provide a dynamic multi-faceted, educational experience which allows each student to maximize his or her potential academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. JAMS programs are based on shared decision making by interested community members, parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators to meet the unique needs of a diverse student population. Building a caring community of students, JAMS focuses on character building that includes trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship."

(From SMMUSD Educational specifications)

JAMS ENTRY COURTYARD

INTRODUCTION

Berliner Architects conducted numerous teacher interviews along with four workshops that resulted in a comprehensive understanding of JAMS Campu's vital relationship with its surrounding community, faculty, and student body. The following is a result of this collaborative design process conducted during the year 2020.

Before the 1960s, the neighborhood was much larger and was an important African-American enclave on the Westside, but when the Santa Monica Freeway opened in the 1960s, it resulted in the destruction of many residences and the relocation of a large number of families. This is the most ethnically diverse area of Santa Monica, but this diversity is under threat as the area is rapidly becoming gentrified. While the city of Santa Monica has a very low crime rate compared to surrounding communities, the Pico neighborhood has higher crime rates than the rest of the city, Making John Adams Middle School (JAMS) a critical fabric of the community. JAMS is made up of one and two story buildings and is located in the Pico district of Santa Monica and is adjacent to Santa Monica College. The campus contains multiple courtyards while the main circulation is made up of exterior corridors that are mostly covered. JAMS serves grades 6 - 8. One of the main goals of the master planning effort was to

redevelop the existing exterior courtyards into outdoor learning environments that are conducive to project based learning. This concept was driven by the recommendations in the education specifications contained within the 2019 Education Master Plan. The Plan's main goal is to update its specialized learning programs and career technical education curriculum offerings to align with 21st century jobs and skills, which include growing science, technology, engineering, art, math and STEAM programs. Along with the continuation of the JAMS Science magnet that has been active on the campus for 28 years and is widely respected in the community. The campus lends itself to provide such spaces with its underutilized outdoor areas that can become collaborative spaces for such programs to thrive. The goal of the master planning effort is to propose projects which align with the 2019 Education Master Plan and fall within the existing measure of the SMS bond funds passed by Santa Monica taxpayers in 2018



JAMS COURTYARD

PROJECT LOCATION & ADJACENCIES

JOHN ADAMS Middle School (SMMUSD) 2425 16th Street Santa Monica, CA 90405

John Adams is situated within a neighborhood of mostly single family residences, and many of its students walk to school. Across from the campus to the West is Will Rogers Learning Community, to the North is Santa Monica Community College and at to the South is the Boys and Girls Club. The multitude of diverging programs and educational institutions creates a high rate of traffic during morning and afternoon hours. A new

performing arts complex is under construction and is located in the North lawn area of the campus. It is being built in partnership with Santa Monica College with plans for joint community use. Along with the new arts complex, there is public use of the athletic field during after school hours and this in turn leads to pedestrian traffic through the campus during those uses which lends to safety concerns for the campus and its student body.

1. Low density housing surrounds the campus to the East along 17th street, mostly one-story residences with a few 2-story residencies





- 2. Santa Monica Community College is adjacent to JAMS campus along Pearl Street.
- 4. Boys and Girls Club is located at the south end of the campus



3. Will Rogers Learning Community is located across from JAMS's front entry creating traffic during pick up and drop off hours.





5. Athletic filed is shared with SMC and community

during after school hours.



AMS SITE ASSESSMI

4

CAMPUS ANALYSIS

JAMS is situated within a unique area, where residential homes and educational institutions surround the campus. This has led to some traffic congestion and concern for the student body during drop- off and pickup hours. It has also created an opportunity for cross-pollination for JAMS and its neighborhood environment. JAMS's campus has many outdoor spaces that are currently underutilized which could lend themselves to outdoor learning spaces.





Open Space

During our walk we noticed that the campus enjoys many outdoor spaces that could provide opportunities for outdoor learning. There are a number of mature trees within some of these courtyards and at the main quad of the campus. There is a linear courtyard between four of the classroom builidings that is mostly paved with a few planters. Where the main science building is located, there is a vegetable garden that is utilized by the students. The library courtyard is underutilized and is used for storage. The athletic field is located South of the campus and is used by both SMC and the community.

Vehicular Circulation and Parking

Student drop-off and pickup occurs at two locations. One along 16th street where the main entry to the campus is located and one along 17th street where the Music Building is located (this is due to students dropping off their instruments). There are three parking areas, as well as limited street parking, for staff and guests. One is located next to the Music Building, and the other is located next to the Cafeteria. Both are located along 17th Street. Due to limited parking some staff and guests park at the Boys and Girls parking lot, along 16th street

Circulation

During our walk through the campus it became obvious to the team that there is no clear indication of how to navigate through the campus due to a lack of wayfinding signage or visual cues. There seemed to be one main path that ran across the campus from 16th street to 17th street, however the main office and guest entry does not lie along this main artery. Once you enter the campus, through the main office, the pathway through campus in any direction tends to terminate at dead ends. There is a lack of one clear circulation path that starts at the Main Office and runs through to 17th Street

With the lack of wayfinding and signage, new students tend to have trouble locating their classrooms. This is a particular concern with the 6th grade students. Also, the classrooms associated with various grades are scattered throughout the campus, and there is no sense of cohorts orgranized around grades, . Consolidating the classrooms into cohorts based on grades, will facilitate the implementation of the Edcuation Specifications goals of Project Based Learning. Locating different subject matter classrooms adjacent to each other will make it easier for teachers to collaborate. reduce travel time between classes. This will also allow for classrooms to be joined by movable partitions.

Grade Location



WORKSHOP 1 TEAM DISCUSSION

CAMPUS ASSESSMENT - TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Berliner conducted a number of one on one interviews with JAMS faculty members. The information gleened from these interviews was essential in establishing Berliner's understanding of the needs and oppurtunities of the campus and its community. Below are some of the key takeways from these interviews which informed the Master Planning process.

YOUTH-CENTERED SPACE ESSENCE OF COMMUNITY COURTYARD SPACE EMPOWER OUTDOOR PROJECT BASED LEARNING COMMON SPACE LIGHT MULTI-PURPOSE SCHOOL CULTURE FLEXIBILITY

PRIMARY FINDINGS FROM TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Science - Kristin Jurewicz

- Need common spaces where teachers can plan and collaborate
- Science classrooms should have natural light
- Science classes should project JAMS's status as a Science Magnet
- Common areas where projects that are inprocess can be left - stored are needed
- 3. Music Sean Garnreiter, Angela Woo
- A space on campus for outside performances would be welcomed
- Music is a signature program at JAMS
- The music teachers collaborate all the time team teach
- Eliminate terraced floors in music classrooms, so that theyare more flexible and can be reconfigured as needed.

5. Physical Education - Jeanette Asher

- Under-utilized space in the existing locker rooms and showers
- Smaller common room within gym is too small for their needs
- After school and on weekends, the gym and fields are not typically available for school events, these spaces are used by community at these times

2. Art - Jennifer Joyce

- Natural light for art room is essential
- Art has done some project based learning with math and engineering
- Schedule does not allow for time outside of class to do planning and collaboration with other teachers
- The 90's building could lend themselves to project based learning

4. Library - Andrea Jarvis

- Need the existing (heavy) furniture to be replaced by new flexible furniture
- Existing courtyard at the library that is currently being used to store old equipment can be remodeled to provide an engaging space that the library opens onto



CAMPUS ASSESSMENT - WORKSHOPS

Workshop 1, the group was presented with hundreds of images which ranged from those that were bright and full of movement to quiet and meditative. From this grouping, the paritipants pinned on the board individual images which spoke to them and told the group the reason why. What follows are some of the primary takeaways.

Need for Flexible Spaces

Providing flexible classrooms was a common request from workshop participants. Creating spaces that can be reconfigured for different uses and the ability to combine classrooms for team teaching was asked for. Teacher offices and work rooms close to classrooms would support collaboration and project based learning.

Outdoor Spaces

There are multiple outdoor spaces at JAMS that can support outdoor learning. These spaces can become extensions of classrooms and encourage project based learning curriculum. Outdoor spaces designed with seating, adequate shade and shielding from the wind can facilitate collaboration, a commons for each grade serving all grade meetings, and identify the entry to the grade neighborhood through signage and branding

STEAM COMPLEX

Building upon the success of the JAMS Science Magnet, a new redesigned STEAM complex adjacent to the Main Quad was discussed. This could include outdoor science labs and vegetable gardens that support project based learning. Because of the special needs of the science classrooms and maker spaces, consolidating them in a central location for all grades is desirable. The location of the existing science classrooms are easily accessible from all parts of campus and grades and redeveloping them by adding more classes and teacher support spaces would be beneficial.

WORKSHOP 1 VISIONING BANNER

6th Grade and Wayfindnig

There needs to be a better wayfinding system throughout the campus, particularly for the incoming 6th graders. One good idea would be to create a 6th Grade Cohort to provide a sense of place and ownership. Based on the feedback from teachers, 6th graders find it difficult to navigate the campus due to a lack of signage and the fact that the classes assigned to certain grades are scattered throughout the campus and do not form coherent cohorts or neighborhoods.















CONCEPTS & IMAGERY

Workshop 1, along with placing pinned individual images which spoke to them, the participants were also asked to identify priorities within three broad categories: Architecture, Education, and Community. Below are the priorities that came out of this excercise.

ARCHITECTURE

- Engage outdoor learning spaces
- Reclaim pre-school
- Central Gathering with small nodes
- STEAM Complex
- Storage
- Connections Spaces
- Collaborative and Flexible
- Ability for Growth
- Spaces for teachers

EDUCATION

- Students engaged and challenged
- Project Based Learning

COMMUNITY

- Maker Space for students and community
- Inspiring place to be
- Connected school culture
- Campus inviting to larger community



















WORKSHOP 1 CONCEPT AND IMAGERY

ASSESSMEN

JAMS

GENERAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND APPROACH

Using these design principles projects proposed for the campus will embody the qualities of the 21st Century Learning Environments as defined in the SMMUSD Education Specifications.



8

9

1. COLLABORATIVE + FLEXIBLE SPACES (WHOLE CHILD APPROACH AND SMALL LEARNING COMMUNITIES)

- Classroom Clusters/Learning Centers
- Co-Location of Same Grade Classrooms
- Agile and PBL Classrooms
- Flexibility and Mobility
- Independent and Small Group Learning
- 2. CAMPUS IDENTITY, CONNECTING SPACES, WAYFINDING AND BRANDING (INCREASED SCHOOL UTILIZATION AND EASE OF USE FOR THE LARGER COMMUNITY)
 - Defined Campus Adjacencies
 - Building Connections and Community
 - Outdoor Learning and Intermediate Spaces
 - Safety and Access
- 3. ENGAGING OUTDOOR SPACES (HEALTH AND WELLNESS, SUSTAINABILITY AND EXTENDED LEARNING)
 - Outdoor Learning and Intermediate Spaces
 - Breakout Spaces
 - Healthful Opportunities for Mind-Body Balance



4. CENTRAL GATHERING SPACE "QUAD" (CAMPUS COHERENCE AND IDENTITY)

- Community and Connection
- Identity and Ownership

5. MULTI-PURPOSE DINING/CAFÉ (HEALTH AND WELLNESS)

- Twenty-first century cafe as enriching space
- Connections to Outside



6. MAKER SPACES FOR STUDENTS & COMMUNITY (NEXT GEN SCIENCE AND PBL)

- Science and Flexible Maker/STEM Labs
- Teaming Studios- Flexible, Action-Based Spaces

7. SPACES FOR TEACHERS (PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES)

- Professional and Collaborative Spaces
- Teacher and Staff Workrooms



- Library as Social Center and Hub
- Furniture Flexibility and Connection to Outside
- Street-Side Access

9. VARIETY OF GATHERING SPACES (WHOLE CHILD APPROACH)

- Outdoor Learning and Intermediate Spaces

- Student Centered and Project Based Learning
- Arts Integration





8. FLEXIBLE LIBRARY (ACTIVE AND ROBUST LEARNING CENTER/RESOURCE)

Intermediate Spaces for Independent and Small Group Learning

10. PLACES FOR DISPLAY ON CAMPUS (SUPPORT FOR PROJECT-BASED DELIVER)

WORKSHOP 1 PRIORTIES EXERCISE

SITE



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12

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- Intermediate Spaces for Independent and Small Group
 Learning
- Outdoor Learning and Intermediate Spaces



10. PLACES FOR DISPLAY ON CAMPUS (SUPPORT FOR PROJECT-BASED DELIVERY)

- Student Centered and Project Based Learning
- Arts Integration



IAMS SITE ASSESSME

12



WORKSHOP 1 CAMPUS DESIGN DISCUSSION

TEAM SOLUTIONS

Based on what we heard in Workshop 2, Berliner identified the priority projects to be analysed and developed at JAMS. To begin this process, we started by asking the following important questions about the campus: What are the important adjacencies? Where is the front? Is there more than one entrance? What areas are inclined to provide great outdoor spaces? Below is a list that Berliner believes are the main goals for the future of JAMS to be successful

JAMS CAMPUS PRIORITIES (WORKSHOP 1)

- Create space for teachers
- Engaging outdoor programmed spaces
- Collaborative and flexible spaces
- Maker space for students and community
- Drop-off / Pick-up locations and points of Entry/Security
- Central gathering space (quad)
- Library (furniture flexibility) and connection to the outside as well as redesign interior of library
- Gym / MPR reconfigure
- Cafeteria, connection to the outside and renovation of interior
- STEAM Complex accomodating science programs and maker spaces with appropriately sized classrooms and support spaces
- Consolidate parking / limit vehicles through campus
- Relocate Preschool to elementary school campus adn re-purpose site for campus use
- Music building renovation or replacement

TAKEAWAYS

- After identifying projects based on the campus priorities, we also listed campus wide requirements that can be incorporated into these new projects
- The use of project based learning to foster new outdoor spaces and classroom layouts
- Design based on sustainability to increase wellness in classroom environments
- Taking advantage of shared programming in order to provide collaborative spaces
- New wayfinding and branding that reinforces school identity and visibility. This will provide opportunities for students to get involved with the art program.
- Organizing adjacencies by grade and increase school utilization by taking teacher offices out of classrooms and providing shared teacher lounges.
- Some areas at the campus will need facility upgrades and repairs.
- Connecting spaces through clear entries to the campus. This will provide greater school security during school hours, and provide a clear entry for the larger community to navigate through the campus.



Secondary entry and outdoor space preliminary sketch



classroom layout with outdoor learning shared space concept

Next Steps

14

The following pages expand upon the lessons learned from teacher interviews and three workshop - visioning sessions: one at JAMS ,and two, due to the pandemic, via zoom meetings. They highlight the potential of the site to better understand the long-term visioning of JAMS.

14

CAMPUS EXPLORATIONS

The following schemes explore the potential of the campus through three options: Small, Medium, and Large - which range in their scale of interventions into the campus.

SMALL

During the site walk, assessment, and workshops, there was a common concern as to how to best utilize the open space that exists on campus. We began to identify potential outdoor spaces that are adjacent to classrooms as well as proposing new furniture for greater classroom flexibility

MEDIUM

In the Medium scheme we included all of the moves in the Small scheme and then proposed some additional interventions. Per our discussions with faculty and the administration we concluded that it would be beneficial to provide a 6th Grade Cohort which would establish a sense of place for these students

and encourage the inter-disciplinary crosspollination described in the educational specifications. At the same time, we proposed greater transparency into these classrooms by adding fenestration and new garage doors which will open out to outdoor spaces. Such design moves will provide an opportunity for project based learning to take place inside and outside. We also proposed movable partitions within the classrooms that are adjacent to one another in order to maximize classroom size if needed. We have also provided a new lounge and teacher offices that can be used for planning and collaboration. We also began to strengthen the main pedestrian circulation path (Main Street) through the campus by renovating the canopy and walkway that runs East and West through the campus.

MEDIUM

This axis would be reinforced with new wayfinding, graphics, and skylights along the existing canopy. The new axis would also provide a clear path to the STEAM classrooms, where most of the of the science classrooms are currently located. This new STEAM complex would also provide outdoor science classrooms (requested by the science teachers) which will allow for outdoor group projects, and demonstations.

LARGE

In the Large scheme we include all of the proposals from Small and Medium and provided additional interventions. A new STEAM Complex two story building is proposed along with a new outdoor Science Deck.

The Cafeteria is renovated and includes a new outdoor deck area which is shaded by a canopy. The Eighth Grade courtyard is enhanced with new seating and pathways to the library to take advantage of this existing shaded open space with mature trees that

SMALI

15





6th GRADE

• Small Interventions (New Classroom Furniture / Repairs / Facility Upgrades)

STEAM

SHARED USE

ADMIN



- Everything from Small +
- Create 6th Grade Cohort
- Establish STEAM Complex

• Establish Campus Entry Axis

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



LARGE

- Everything from Medium +
- Outdoor Spaces @ Library + Cafeteria
- New Eighth Grade Quad and Main Quad
- Relocation of Gym to 90's Building Location
- Refine Drop off & Pick up

is currently underutilized. A new Main Quad layout is proposed to take advantage of the new outdoor STEAM Building and Science Deck. We Remove the 90's building and relocate they gym in that area in order to create a more cohesive athletic department campus layout. In so doing, we open up the campus for the Secondary Entry for the community that is anchored on both ends with new open spaces at the library and cafeteria.

With these proposed interventions, the campus has two main entries for different users. In the process, these new axial walkways provide East and West pathways improving the circulation of the campus and alleviating confusion as to how to navigate the campus. In this scheme we have also proposed a future relocation of the Music Building to the current site of the Preschool. This move pushes the Music Building into the heart of the campus, adjacent to the new STEAM building and the Main Quad and also allows the parking to be pushed out to the edge of campus.



• Create Secondary Entry for Community and Defining Clear Campus Axis Throughout

PRIORITIZED PROJECTS FOR THE JAMS CAMPUS

Per our site exploration and schemes we began to design specific projects and spaces and set priorities for each project based on the needs of the faculty and student body that was gathered during our workshops and interviews. The following slides are ordered in terms of the priority assigned by the design team, school staff, administation and the community. That is, number one, the new STEAM Building was deemed to be the highest priority project for JAMS.



16



MUSIC BUILDING

- 4/LABS

1/ TEACHER LOUNGE

FLEXIBILITY

- project.

OUTDOOR SPACE

lounge





PERFORMING ARTS COMPLEX

18

NEW STEAM COMPLEX SECOND FLOOR

2/ DEDICATED OFFICE/STORAGE SPACES FOR TEACHER USE

• Flexible furniture that can be arranged to accommodate individual learning as well as team work and can adapt to different size classrooms. • Larger high tables on casters that can be moved around depending on the

• Furniture can be moved out to the Science Porch for projects.

• Standardized furniture so when classrooms open up to each other they feel like one large classroom.

• Covered balcony for displays and lectures.

• Garage doors that open towards the balcony for extension of teachers





NEW STEAM COMPLEX



13 CLASSROOMS

- (6) moving partitions
- (1) Science Classroom

1 TEACHER LOUNGE

- Small kitchen
- Soft seating

2 TEACHER OFFICES

• 3-4 working spaces

3 BREAKOUT SPACES

• 8-10 students each

EXTERIOR COURTYARD

- spaces.

20

2. 6TH GRADE COHORT

• Courtyards with Collaboration spaces.

• Pass through between 6th grade courtyard and linear courtyard.

• Glazing to maximize transparency.

• Garage doors that open towards the entry courtyard creating outdoor learning





6TH GRADE COHORT COURTYARD

OUTDOOR SPACE

- spaces.
- performances.
- Seating along perimeter of lawn.

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

- and other uses.
- Shaded seating in existing plaza.



• Garage doors that open towards the courtyard creating outdoor learning

• Perimeter deck provides outdoor space for classes, gatherings and

• Gradual multi use lawn slopes from existing paving to raised planter for seating

• Large shade trees provide shaded seating and reduce heat island.

• Pass through between 6th grade courtyard and linear courtyard.





6TH GRADE COHORT COURTYARD

LINEAR COURTYARD

OUTDOOR SPACE

- spaces.

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

- Planting areas provide bio swale filtration and permeability.





• Garage doors that open towards the courtyard creating outdoor learning

• Fixed and movable seating for classroom and casual uses.

• Reduced paving/increased planting area to reduce heat island and glare.

- New large shade trees provide shaded seating areas and can reduce GHG emissions produced in cooling.
- Increased bio diversity in planting areas.





LINEAR COURTYARD





4. LIBRARY

1 / ENTRANCE GALLERY

• Display of books and recent student work

2 / BREAKOUT SPACE

- Flex space for additional book dispay, if needed
- Can serve as 'breakout' space for the mini maker zone

3 / FLEX SPACE

- (2) moving partitions
- Tables that easily fold
- SMART screen (existing)

4 / MINI MAKER LAB

- Small project space
- Scissors/paper/2D & small 3D making

LOW HEIGHT BOOK DISPLAY SHELVES



5 / EXTERIOR COURTYARD

- Lunch tables
- Messy table

6 / KITCHEN

- Minimal upgrades
- Working sink!

7 / OVERALL IMPROVEMENTS

- Assisted hearing + speakers
- Pinnable Wall Space allong edges

SOFT LOUNGE SEATS

TABLE SEATING



LIBRARY



- Provide seating in the shade of the trees
- planting





5. 8TH GRADE COURTYARD

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

- Preserve Mature Ash trees
- Minimize new paving in tree rootzones
- Provide accessible walkway to courtyard
- Replace turf in shade areas with more shade tolerant and permeable
- Renovate existing planting and irrigation





6. CENTRAL QUAD

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

- diversity.



• Consolidated planters with native planting to increase shade and bio

• Solar reflective paving coating over existing asphalt and additional shade trees to reduce heat island.

• Potential storm water collection and re-use in campus cistern.

• Built in seating for campus wide events and a variety of seating options for casual student gatherings.

• New pavers adjacent to STEAM building porch in order to indicate primary entry and pathway.





CENTRAL QUAD



FLEXIBILITY

OUTDOOR SPACE

SITE IMPROVEMENTS



7. CAFETERIA

• Private dining room for students requiring more intimate dining space, which can also accommodate private meetings.

• Various seating arrangement, between large lunch bench seating to round banquet seating layout to lounge seating clusters in the middle, providing freedom of choice to students that they find comfortable.

• Outdoor dining porch set up with both round tables and square tables. Square tables can be brought together or pulled apart as needed to allow students to gather in bigger or smaller groups.

• Trellis to run along the outdoor deck area and attached solar panels to provide shade and store energy for school electricity use.

• Large shade trees, within planters to provide shade and reduce heat island. • Existing garden planters to remain.

31



CAFETERIA

8. SECONDARY, COMMUNITY **ENTRY AT 16TH STREET**

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

- permeable areas.



33



• Provide Shade over parking pavement and walkways.

• Provide walkways to gym and library from parking lot.

• Provide planting on perimeters of parking lot and buildings to increase



COHESIVE IDENTITY

JAMS campus provides opportunities to create unique outdoor spaces that reinforce school identity, collaboration, and project based learning. With Small, Medium, and Large interventions the JAMS campus, with its "good bones", can be retooled to enourage and prmote 21st Century educational models as described in the District's Educational Specifications and embraced by the school faculty, staff, and community.









