

Program Summary:

Designed to support innovation and community building by offering 21st Century Learning Environments.

Program Statement:

The educational planning and design of the new Health Sciences Academy capitalizes on both the organization's commitment to innovation and community building. The contemporary facility serves as a beacon for the surrounding neighborhood, featuring 21st Century Learning Environments throughout five learning communities. Each community has its own unique identity and character via distinctive colors and wayfinding signage. Classrooms within the communities are organized in groups to foster collaboration and put learning on full display. Once fully enrolled, the STEM focused charter school will educate approximately 700 pre-K through eighth grade students.

A220.01

Building Area: (sf)
90,000

Cost per Square Foot:
\$247

Construction Cost
\$22,271,257

Date of Completion:
April 30, 2021

A220.02

- To create a distinct point of entry along the linear building, the main entrance separates itself from the adjacent building massing that gestures towards the Southeast corner of the site as a beacon for students, staff, and visitors at the intersection of the site's two main access roads.
- The materiality of the shifting form attempts to address both the scale of the residential area with low-brick massing and the innovative, contemporary aspects of the school clad with metal wall panels and highlights of the school's main color. Portions of the building clad in wood-look fiber cement siding serve as a transitional material between the metal and masonry sections while providing a warm, natural look that ties into the campus landscaping.



A220.03

- Located within a contextual confluence of residential, industrial, and parkland areas, the school serves as a buffer between the three zones.
- A compact, rectilinear site bounded by residential plots and community sports fields, shaped the building into two linear masses situated along the outer edges of the site which surround a secure, internal courtyard.
- The heart of the campus is the interior courtyard which includes a culinary garden, cistern, rain garden, and play areas.



- (A) CULINARY GARDEN
- (B) CISTERN
- (C) RAIN GARDEN
- (D) PRE-K & K PLAY
- (E) 1ST-5TH GRADE PLAY
- (F) MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAY
- (G) TEACHING KITCHEN
- (H) OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
- (I) BUS PARKING
- (J) CARPOOL
- (K) ENTRANCE

A220.04

- Putting learning on display was a priority throughout the design. Discovery and Science classrooms are visible from the secure interior courtyard with an all-glass façade.
- Green: The primary school color is revealed at primary entry points around the building.
- Nearby, a 'crab trap' themed playground relates to the local seafood and trapping industries. Although themed, the structure is understated and colors are linked to the architectural palette.



A220.05

- Learning happens everywhere. The courtyard space is flexible and has both active and quiet moments. Some spaces are perfect for reading, and some encourage exploratory play and exercise.
- The garden, which is watered by rain collected in the cistern, provides as an opportunity for children to grow their own vegetables.
- The commercial grade teaching kitchen funded by a world-renown chef, utilizes produce from the school's garden to teach the student how to prepare healthy meals.



A220.06

- A central spine of circulation connects student spaces expanding and contracting between zones, utilizing the corridor as an extension of the classroom learning space.
- From the second you enter the school learning is on display. The core of the school opens providing clear visibility to the maker space for elementary students surrounded by collaborative space for larger group instruction.
- Programmatically, the two wings of the building that bound the internal courtyard are split between small group gathering spaces such as classrooms and support spaces in the East wing and large gathering spaces like the gymnasium and cafeteria in the West wing.



Floor Plan Legend

- ADMINISTRATION
- CIRCULATION
- CORE ACADEMIC
- MULTI-PURPOSE AREAS
- SHARED SCIENCE LABS
- SUPPORT

A220.07

- The wayfinding for the learning communities focuses on the school's core values of Honor, Endurance, Academic Achievement, Responsibility, Tolerance (HEART). Each of these are reflected in a learning pod and in the school's curriculum.
- Individual learning communities are identified by large wall graphics that become progressively more complex using sophisticated geometries transitioning through grade level.





A220.08

- **Discovery Zone:** An elevated, glass-enclosed maker space which is located at a key hinge point along the shifting circulatory spine, showcasing hands-on STEM curriculum that is viewable from inside and outside the building.
- This entire space is emphasized visually and physically by elevating it 24 inches from the rest of the classrooms. Learning steps about the hands-on learning space allowing for large group instruction in the heart of the school.



A220.09

- The large, two-story volume media center acts as the focal point, situated at the north edge of the courtyard, reinforcing education and healthy living inside and out while embracing students' need for fun and play.



A220.10

- With an emphasis on flexibility, the computer lab and commons space are equipped with flexible furniture to allow for multi-functions.
- The computer lab is located between the library and learning corridor acting as a connector between active learning and reading with research and application.
- In addition to the variety of activities that can take place in the commons, the core seating arrangement is designed to facilitate various furniture types and groupings to accommodate the needs of differing student personality types.
- A raised-platform stage can open the commons to the gymnasium allowing this space to be utilized in a multitude of ways from formal presentations to spontaneous group activities.



Project Name:
Dr. John Ochsner Discovery Health
Sciences Academy

Photographer(s):
Mark Bienvenu

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Credit Slide

Project Location:
Jefferson, LA

Owner/Client:
Ochsner Health System

Architect(s) of Record:
(names and addresses)
Grace Hebert Curtis Architects
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Project Team:
David Hebert, AIA

Landscape Architect:
McKnight Landscape Architects

Consultants:
Civil & Structural: Schrenk, Endom &
Flanagan
MEP: YKMH Consulting
Food Service: CMc Design

General Contractor:
Gibbs Construction