

# GEORGE WASHINGTON SCHOOL

## 4TH & 5TH GRADE

Total Area: 68,000 sq. ft.

Student Capacity: 350

Completion: 2022

Washington School reflects the unique needs of the intermediate grades and encourages the play and exploration that is connected to learning. The two-story facility has plenty of open spaces, with learning taking place in “neighborhoods.” Students move around in flexible instructional areas that offer a variety of learning environments. This design allows for problem-based learning, collaboration among students, and flexibility to work in large or small groups, or even individually. Soft seating is easy to rearrange, and students write on dry-erase walls and surfaces, encouraging them to be spontaneous and share their thoughts and work. Reading nooks where students can cozy up with a book or work with a partner are already a favorite feature, and help students retreat to a quiet spot when needed.

Generous use of daylight, color, and shapes are found throughout the school. Research shows that light enhances mood, behavior, academic performance and productivity. From any vantage point, students can see daylight, and they can gaze out not only onto the sky and trees, but all the different modes of transportation around them, including the container yard, former Soo line, tollway and O'Hare Airport.

Twenty-first century learning concepts are also seen in the art and reading rooms, which feature open space, transparency, and natural light to encourage brain stimulation and creativity. The band and music rooms are colorful and spacious, inviting students to find joy in the performing arts. The gymnasium has ample space for physical education activities, and also serves as a tornado shelter. Students enjoy their new cafeteria that has soft seating and high top tables, and a state-of-the-art kitchen with all new equipment.

The media center and learning staircase are the heart of Washington School. This area welcomes students and guests into the building and invites them to connect with one another and the school community. The slide is an educational tool used to reset students who need a brain break or reset their mood and energy levels to optimize learning.

The Schiller Park Historical Commission has its new home in Washington School. The space features a museum to display artifacts for visitors, a work space, and ample storage. Washington students will have authentic and valuable learning experiences as generations are brought together, and this innovative partnership will benefit the entire community for years to come!

Washington's new site improves safety with new traffic patterns, and alleviates congestion and traffic around Lawrence and Michigan. The building is completely soundproofed to prevent noise disturbances due to its proximity to O'Hare. Landscaping buffers the noise and traffic of Lawrence Avenue. District 81 will invite the community to Washington School's open house in August of 2022, upon the completion of site work.



*Music Room*



*Learning Neighborhood*



*Media Center*