

JOHN F. KENNEDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRESCHOOL-3RD GRADE

Total Area: 106,320 sq. ft.
Student Capacity: 900
Completion 2021

District 81's mission is to ensure success in all areas of development and to provide a child-centered environment, which is demonstrated throughout Kennedy School.

The five-phase renovation and addition of Kennedy was completed in 2021. The renovation of the old space fits seamlessly into the new 37,000 sq. ft. addition, giving the impression that the entire facility is brand new.

Classrooms are bright and airy, and have soft, flexible furniture and window seats. Between each pair of classrooms is a breakout space to encourage both collaborative and individual study. Glass walls also function as writing surfaces. Students can move around freely and use their creativity and imagination to create and explore. The centrally located project spaces provide ample room for collaborative, hands-on learning. Playful light fixtures and furniture support creativity and movement. Color defines each grade at Kennedy (e.g., third grade spaces are teal; pre-K blue, first grade green), and instill a feeling of belonging. Transparent walls enhance security and inspire wonder by putting learning on display.

Kennedy students and staff connect to the world of living things through natural light, views and the selection of materials used around the school. "Grass" Flotex flooring and wood-looking ceiling panels incorporate nature into the school environment. This is especially evident in the presentation space, where an amphitheater becomes a "hill" with a wide view of the outdoors. This space facilitates peer-to-peer learning and variety of instructional techniques.

The "learning corridor" serves as both circulation and the media center that welcomes students to get cozy with a book or technology. Teachers use this space creatively for small group activities with their students. It's a favorite spot for soaking up sunshine and reading with friends. The motorized garage door is often open, joining the media center to the art room. Playful light fixtures and a music room designed for exploration show how learning and engagement go hand in hand.

The early childhood wing has its own secured entrance and arrival & dismissal lane, with classrooms that facilitate learning through play, with age appropriate furniture and a playground dedicated to this age group.

The gymnasium and cafeteria are large spaces that are bright and colorful, with designs that highlight the vibrancy found throughout the entire facility. Kennedy's instructional space will increase with the enclosure of the courtyard, scheduled for completion by fall of 2022.



Presentation Space



Cafeteria



Project Space