



Featured Projects

Tioga Elementary School

Tioga Elementary School is a bright, colorful learning environment.



Tioga Elementary School is a prototype for the Bensenville school district—both as an educational program and as an aesthetic statement of how valuable their kids are to the community. The Bensenville school district originally closed and demolished the older Chippewa Elementary School in order to fund an addition to the existing Tioga School, which ultimately became an entirely new, 122,400-sf facility on the Tioga site. This new school reflects how closely the architects, STR Partners; the school district; and the public worked together to create a 21st century learning experience that is in line with their educational goals and programs.

STR delivered what the community was seeking: a gleaming white building with color accents in the windows and on the exterior pavement. This design defines scale and identity and offers an array of bright colors inside and out. STR's engagement with the community culminated in the building's bright, child-friendly, and welcoming aesthetic. The result is an happy, energetic, and vibrant environment that has a positive impact on learning.

The Project

Project Name and Address:

Tioga Elementary School
212 West Memorial Road
Bensenville, Illinois 60106

Owner:

Bensenville ESD 2

Architect:

STR Partners LLC, Chicago

Structural Engineer:

C.E. Anderson & Associates, P.C.

The Builders

General Contractor:

Gilbane Building Company

Mason Contractor:

Iwanski Masonry & Builders

The Scope

Project Totals:

120,234-sf New Elementary
School on 11 Acres

Type of Materials Used:

White Brick

Slate

Natural Stone



The white brick with floor-to-ceiling glass openings provides bright, cheerful spaces. Colored glass accents, made vivid by the simple white brick walls, creates visual elements that children and teachers can relate to. Wood, slate, and natural stone add a touch of warmth to the palette.

Brick masonry's surprising aesthetic flexibility allows the school district to create an exciting, 21st century learning environment for the community.



Creating a strong visual presence in the community

White brick exteriors are complemented with bright color accents in the windows and exterior pavement. This helps to define scale and identity and is reinforced by the use of color in cheery interior furnishings, walls, and floors. The clean, bright, colorful building meets the district's ultimate goal of creating a center for the community through a strong visual presence. The gleaming white building creates a unified, modern, and open campus. More importantly, the district and designer created a place where the kids of Bensenville are enthusiastic about coming to learn.

STR chose brick materials to meet 21st century designs

Brick was chosen early during the project. The district wanted to have the community's input in deciding what the school should look and feel like, guided by the design team's knowledge that brick masonry provided infinite aesthetic possibilities. Three distinctly different images of the school were presented to and voted on by community members: a traditional scheme, a scheme resembling colored blocks, and the chosen white with colored glass scheme. The durability and low maintenance cost of brick makes it a traditional choice of many school districts.

The 21st century demands for sustainability were met through:

- Consolidation
- Reduction in heat island
- Efficient building envelope
- Energy recovery systems
- Construction waste management
- Interior thermal comfort
- Enhanced acoustical performance
- Certified wood and recycled materials

School spaces include:

- Areas for informal instruction
- Classrooms paired with flex rooms
- Gymnasium
- Cafeteria
- Administration area
- Community room
- Library
- State-of-the-art media center
- Two music classrooms
- Art classroom
- Three pre-kindergarten classrooms
- Outdoor instructional spaces
- General classrooms
- Innovation lab
- An amphitheater
- A bus loop and auto drop/pick-up

The construction of this elementary school was a successful and collaborative effort between the architect, the school district, the community, and the builders. For more information contact:

STR strpartners.com

Gilbane gilbaneco.com

IWANSKI
MASONRY & BUILDERS iwanskimasonry.com



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