



News Release

For Immediate Release

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New Early Childhood Center Plans Unveiled for Iberville Elementary

The Iberville Parish School System unveiled today architectural renderings and plans for a multi-million dollar addition to transform Iberville Elementary School, the largest school in the parish. The school serves more than 1000 students with preschool classes through 6th grade.

The key focus of the work is an Early Learning Center comprised of a 36,000 square foot addition with 16 classrooms. The 16 classrooms will be grouped together into four learning sections (shown in illustration), each having their own identity with associated outdoor learning and play spaces. Each classroom also has its own student restrooms.

“This is a major top-quality project and we praise the architect, Plaquemine native, Brad Guerin, who is with Fusion Architecture in Baton Rouge,” said Superintendent P. Edward Cancienne. The firm has completed the design and all of the specific electrical and mechanical work plans to speed the project forward,” said Superintendent P. Edward Cancienne. This is a major part of the Iberville Parish School System’s master plan.

With this new addition of an early childhood center for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, we will be able to get pre-K and Kindergarten students currently on the E.J. Gay Campus back to the Iberville Elementary site with many new learning advantages and upgrades, he added. Then, the work on the E.J. Campus can begin the renovations and major additions for the Math, Science and Arts Academy-West.

Cancienne praised Iberville Elementary administration and faculty for exceptional test score improvements and noted that scores have jumped significantly in the past two years. Principal Delores Thibodeaux said, “We expect to increase these scores with a great pre-k and kindergarten emphasis. Our growth target for 2007-08 was 6.7 points and our actual SPS score growth was 11 points. Based the 2009 spring test results, the school is expecting to meet or exceed its new school performance goal.”

In the Iberville Elementary expansion, there will be a fully self-contained classroom for students with special needs. In addition to the classrooms, the school will have five additional full size learning spaces for student services such as reading content, reading intervention, math content, math intervention and speech.

Other new additions include a specially designed area for faculty training and a resource room, sick room with nurse’s station, and a new 1,300 sq. ft. family literacy center, conference room, offices and storage space. “This is a great asset to the new design and we hope to provide adult learning classes and resources for our parents and parish residents. All of our schools and programs are open to anyone in the parish. We will have computers and other learning tools,” said Dr. Cancienne.

The new gym has been designed to be a high impact area that is almost 10,000 additional square feet. Also provided will be 60,000 sq. ft. for bus lanes and additional parking along with weather coverings for children and faculty. The new bus drop off and pick up area can accommodate nine full size school buses at once.

In addition, the facility will be outfitted with high technology and broadband wiring for 21st century learning tools and remote distance learning to give the children a global experience, said Thibodeaux. A new early childhood playground area will be provided.

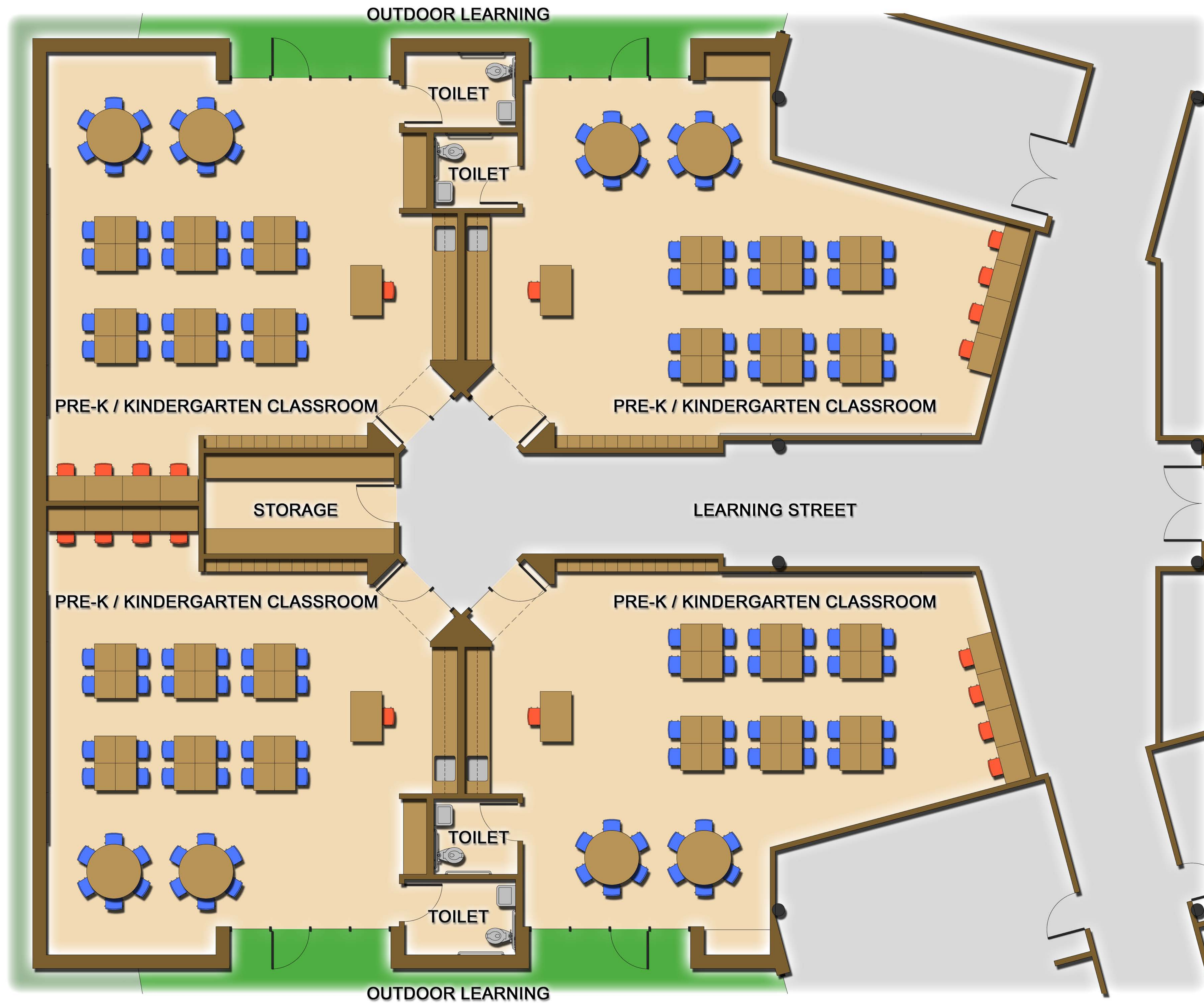
In a time when “green” building techniques are in the forefront, the school system took extra time and design time to incorporate long term maintenance and utility use materials, including the use of heat pipe technology to cost-effectively handle the fresh air requirements with an upgraded insulation package that will save the district approximately 35 percent of today’s utility fees annually.

According to Patrick Norris, Iberville Schools Project Manager, every aspect of this building was analyzed for continuity of services to be provided not only from the instructional stand point but also for the staff that will maintain this facility.

This has been a fast track design due to time restraints, and has been completed in four months of design time, as opposed to 8 or 9 month standard design time, said Norris.

The project will not disrupt school activities during construction. Because of optimal planning, the school system will provide easy access to the school for faculty, parents and students. Construction areas will be fenced off, said Norris.

The cost of the project is \$8.1 million and will be constructed during the 2009-2010 school year. It will be completed and opened for the start of school in August 2010. Iberville Parish voters approved a school proposition in 2008 and this is one of a number of major upgrades being made. “We want the voters of the parish to know that the School Board members and the school system administration are moving forward with our Master Plan to transform Iberville Parish Schools,” added Dr. Cancienne.



ADDITIONS TO IBERVILLE ELEMENTARY EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER AND GYMNASIUM

APRIL 14, 2009
SCHEMATIC DESIGN
FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"



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