



NEWS RELEASE

News from Orange County Public Schools

Orange County School Designs Take Home Honors

Mar. 25, 2013 – Three of Orange County’s newest public schools have won awards from the Florida Educational Facilities Planners’ Association (FEFPA). Twenty entries vied for honors in FEFPA’s Winter Conference Architectural Showcase in Ponte Vedra, Florida.

“We’re excited about our facilities receiving this recognition,” said Orange County Public Schools Chief Facilities Officer John Morris. “Our design and construction partners are to be congratulated on their work.”

SunRidge Middle School took first place in the Middle School category. SchenkelSchultz Architecture designed the school, along with the adjacent SunRidge Elementary School, and Pirtle Construction Company built them. The combined campus saved nearly a million dollars through shared facilities such as kitchen, cafeteria space, central energy plant, storm water system, and driveways.

Westridge Middle School took an Award of Merit. Zyscovich Architects designed the comprehensive replacement; Charles Perry Partners constructed it. The new light-filled, airy Westridge Middle School is a stark contrast to the old facility that had few windows and felt closed-in. The DaVinci courtyard is a unique feature that houses science classrooms and lab on the north side of the courtyard and the music labs on the south. A small amphitheater in the courtyard can be used as an outdoor classroom or performance space.

Edgewater High School, designed by CT Hsu+Associates, won first place in the High School category. Construction for the comprehensive replacement was done by Mills Gilbane and Mims Construction Company. The main educational space was designed to optimize internal communication and supervision while maximizing exterior space for athletic facilities, parking and on-campus community events.

The entries were based on innovative response to education program, aesthetics and use of materials, flexibility for community use, technology provisions, green design, relationship of spaces and expandability, and site development.

“This is possible because voters approved the half penny sales tax that has allowed our building program to meet current needs and prepare for future needs, especially classroom

technology,” explained Morris. “We’re proud of these schools and we’ll continue to look for ways to provide great places of learning that provide value to the community.”

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