



MIDDLE SCHOOL/INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Crete-Monee Middle School University Park, IL



This project exemplifies stakeholder engagement. DLA Architects worked closely with administrators, staff, and students to develop the program to transform a junior high to a middle school and implement a brand-new International Baccalaureate program. This involved building and renovating space for the school to absorb over 300 6th grade students and staff. The process included months of surveys, data analysis, and in-person departmental focus groups. There were also open discussions, design charrettes, and presentations with students.

The International Baccalaureate program places a premium on the integration of subjects and themes with long-term projects, presentations and community involvement as pillars of the curriculum. This new international minded curriculum aligned perfectly with the vision presented by the school community. The resulting additions and remodeling are focused on flexible environments that blur the lines between the school subjects and the spaces themselves.

The spaces are flexible, transparent and encourage active learning activities. The furniture and student groupings can be easily rearranged, and the design provides many opportunities for students to display and present their work, which is a requirement for graduation from the program. To facilitate collaboration, there are two student-designed "chill spaces" with colorful accent lighting and flexible furniture.

New Construction/Addition

Entire school/campus building

DLA Architects, Ltd.

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DESIGN TEAM

Dwain A. Lutzow, AIA, CEO, Principal-in-Charge
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OWNER/CLIENT

Crete-Monee School District 201-U
Crete, IL
Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent
708/367-8300

KEY STATS

Grades Served: 6-8
Capacity: 450 students
Size of Site: 14.7 acres
Building Area: 66,300 gsf
Space per Student: 147 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$31,655
Square Foot Cost: \$215
Project Cost: \$14,245,000
Completion Date: September 2016

PHOTOGRAPHY: DLA ARCHITECTS, LTD./ALEXANDER ROMANOVSKY

