

# Rosa Parks Elementary School

Assuring learning excellence and readiness for a changing world.



Perhaps nothing represents our changing world more than how today's young children learn and the environment in which they do so. Technology is no longer a luxury, it's a necessity. Excellence is an expectation, not a surprise. Readiness is what makes learning seamless and less stressful in a fast moving society. And the environment for learning must be safe, healthy and cost effective.

It had been four decades since ISD 77 added a new elementary school to serve the growing city of Mankato, MN. When tackling the design of the school, ISG and ISD 77 knew it was important to factor in today's learning style and environs, while anticipating the inevitability of tomorrow's quick-change world.

With programming consultant Wold Architects and Engineers, ISG planned for a local referendum that passed in support of this energy efficient and the environmentally friendly school. By minimizing the operating costs and meeting maintenance needs, the district could maximize return on its investment through this new energy efficient, durable and long-lasting building.

The building which was designed to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for schools gold certification, hosts many cost effective features, including:

- ✓ A ground source heat pump system for heating and cooling
- ✓ Occupancy sensors for lighting
- ✓ Regional and recycled material use
- ✓ Water saving fixtures and landscape
- ✓ Various healthy indoor air quality strategies



To enhance security, the school entrance was specifically designed so visitors must pass through the office before entering the school corridors. The added safety measure was implemented by splitting the parking area into an upper level in front of the school for staff parking and parent pickups and a lower level in back is designated for buses.

Learning through technology is supported by a media center, with two adjacent computer labs that overlook the two-story cafeteria. A public use area which remains open after school hours includes the gymnasium, meeting space and a small kitchen. Grade level classrooms are clustered around support areas that include a common space in the center for group work as well as a restroom, storage and conference rooms.

## EXPERTISE

Architecture  
Engineering  
Environmental  
Planning

## WORK

Agriculture  
Civic + Culture  
Commercial  
Education  
Energy  
Food + Industrial  
Government  
Healthcare  
Housing  
Mining  
Public Works  
Sports + Recreation



Mankato, MN  
Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN  
Faribault, MN  
Des Moines, IA  
Storm Lake, IA  
Algona, IA  
La Crosse, WI

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