

New School Building Design - Proposal Considerations from CEMS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Thank you for this opportunity to share what we believe would be highly instrumental and essential necessities to include in a new school building construction/renovation project in the 21st century.

1. It would be highly beneficial to add a second/auxiliary gymnasium to the Middle School. This gymnasium would be slightly smaller than the main gymnasium. This has been a trend in new secondary school construction projects for years now. Putting 50 students in a gym is obsolete, and not optimal for student physical and mental well being. Two separate gymnasiums would be beneficial, one for grades 5-6 (auxiliary), and one for grades 7-8. Students are more comfortable in a setting where there are 20-25 students in a gym, rather than 50. This is optimal for Physical Education programming....and for student well-being. I suggest you survey the students in the classes of 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029. They have had to experience PE classes post-pandemic, ask them what they prefer....to have one class in the Gymnasium at a time....or sharing the gymnasium with another class? The current one gymnasium set up at CEMS does not match the reputation or values of this community. Two gymnasiums would allow more school use options, better PE scheduling, and improving community use....which is much needed. The current CEMS gymnasium was built in the early to mid 1950's. It currently has roof leaks where on occasion we have to place buckets around certain locations in the gym where it leaks, making PE classes more challenging to deliver.
2. It would be highly beneficial to have a fitness center. Another common trend in new secondary school construction are fitness centers. Students in grades 7 & 8 need to be introduced to concepts of resistance training, aerobic training, and other modes of physical conditioning that require 21st century facilities and spaces to accommodate these important educational experiences.
3. An indoor running/walking track is another common addition to 21st century secondary new building projects. An indoor track is typically suspended and is constructed around the gymnasium/fitness center/locker room areas. The current indoor track/spring track/cross country teams have nowhere to run/train, especially during cold/inclement weather months/days. Currently (and for years) they run around the hallways of the school which is not the safest option. I have witnessed many athletes slipping, falling, tripping going up stairs, and countless close calls just in my short time here. An indoor track would not only benefit athletics, but Physical Education, school usage, and community use, especially during winter months, giving community members a safe, comfortable indoor location to walk/run.

All of these elements, a second gymnasium, a fitness center, and an indoor track are industry standard, and could be shared with school and community alike ... and would produce continuous rewards for many years to come.

Thank You for your time and consideration! We realize there are many other factors in determining school models, but we just wanted to add ideas that may spark interest in any committees or community entities that are involved in the project. Thanks for letting us share our ideas.

Sincerely,

CEMS Physical Education Department

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