



Waterloo High School *Waterloo, Illinois*



Design Architects, Inc.

Design team:
Hurst-Rosche Engineers, Civil/
Structural/MEPF

Client:
Waterloo CUSD #5;
James Helton, Superintendent

Capacity:
1,400

Space/student:
174 sq. ft.

Area:
243,683 sq. ft.

Total cost:
\$38 million

Cost/square foot:
\$155.94

Completion:
July 2009

Photographer:
Mark Karpinski

The school is designed to handle 1,400 students initially, but core spaces (food service, gymnasiums, library and building systems) are designed for 1,800 students. The school is designed to accept 20 more classrooms. The layout is such that in an emergency, complete visual oversight by administrators of all corridors is only 15 to 20 feet away.

The school has a culinary-arts lab where students learn to prepare and cook with restaurant-grade equipment, a home for the "Project Lead the Way" pre-engineering program. To support a strong agriculture program, a central courtyard was included that organizes the building and enhances curriculum. Landscaped areas enable the agriculture students to "practice" their horticulture instruction. An elevated tank for water plants also forms a waterfall to aerate the pond, which has a bio-filter and serves as a habitat for their fisheries program. Art has an outdoor drawing deck cantilevered over the pond; special education has outdoor areas for physical therapy and sensory activities.

The courtyard is an outdoor eating plaza for lunch on nice weather days, and the theater has a patio for receptions and intermissions. 