

SCHEMATIC DESIGN NARRATIVE

Henley Middle School is located at 5880 US 250, Rockfish Gap Turnpike. The building is a one story masonry structure originally built in 1965 with additions constructed in 1998 and 2004. The entrance from US 250 to the site is shared by Brownsville Elementary School. Each school has its own, separate parking lot. Henley Middle School is west of the entry drive.

The Physical Education department currently has approximately 140 students per class period, divided into four classes. The existing gymnasium reasonably houses two classes at one time and a third class locates into the health classroom. The fourth class either uses the outdoor playing fields or is brought inside and insufficiently shares the indoor spaces. The existing gymnasium is the western most area of the existing school building and is a double height masonry structure.

The proposed project will increase the teaching capacity of the Physical Education department by adding a 7,400 square foot structure. The addition will provide multiple teaching spaces of various sizes that correlate to various physical education and fitness teaching and training methods. The addition of the new structure combined with the existing facilities will be able to accommodate the current approximate 140 students with room for growth to 200 students.

The addition will be of masonry and steel construction built to connect to the northwest corner of the existing gymnasium. The structure will consist of a large multi-purpose space, a fitness room, a large storage room that will store both indoor and outdoor equipment, two single-occupant toilet rooms, and an enlarged circulation connector that can be used for breakout instructional / activity space. There is an existing small structure off the back of the existing gym that will be reused for its storage room and vestibule. The existing vestibule will be renovated and become a main exterior (community) entry to the addition and existing main gymnasium. The multi-purpose space will be similar to the existing gymnasium height at about twenty feet clear from finished floor to bottom of structure. The fitness room and circulation corridor will be a single story addition at a lower height.

The site is lined by trees to the west and has playfields to the north. The existing school building is to the east and there are asphalt game courts and the bus loop to the south. There will be multiple glass windows and storefront to allow natural light into the spaces and make visual connections to the exterior environment with views towards the tree line and outdoor play areas. The structure has been designed to allow outdoor activities on all sides with direct access from the new addition. The windows will provide a visual connection between those activities and the building's interior. Between the new and existing buildings, a courtyard is created, which will be programmed for physical and general education. The courtyard is bounded by the fitness room to the west and the new circulation space to the south; both will have windows and doors along their elevations to create visual and physical connections between the courtyard and interior spaces.

The addition is proposed to be technologically robust with wireless access, interactive boards, digital capture cameras, projectors, and data display monitors. The scope of the technology includes locations in the multi-purpose space, fitness room, and the enlarged circulation space. The wholeness of the physical and technology environments of the project will allow these new spaces to be used for the physical education curriculum as well as other, core curricula and programs of the school. Additionally, the program is designed to accommodate use by the surrounding community.

New landscaping will respond largely to regulatory requirements. Two student entrances from the bus loop to the existing school will receive canopies. Ground mounted mechanical equipment along the bus loop will receive physical screens to help blend them into the surroundings. The existing gymnasium will receive new retractable goals that can be raised to better serve the space during assemblies, a new sound system, and window openings to allow natural light into the space.