

New Stapleton High School

Preliminary plans call for construction to begin in 2008 on the first phase of the school that would open in the 2010-2012 timeframe. The 20-acre school site is north of I-70, south of 56th Avenue and east of Spruce Street. The site adjoins a 15-acre park complex that the school will share with the public.

Luis O. Acosta Architects (LOA) of Denver has won the competition to design the public high school in Stapleton. The Denver school board made the selection in mid February.

Denver Public Schools, however, must first pass a bond issue to finance construction. The district will decide by August about the viability of a bond issue in the November election.

The LOA concept is a campus with four small schools in separate classroom buildings ultimately for up to 1,600 students. The first phase would accommodate 400-500 students and feature common facilities such as a gym, athletic facilities, music rooms, theater, cafeteria and library.

The design competition was a joint effort by DPS, the Stapleton Foundation and the Foundation for Educational Excellence, which works on education issues in Green Valley Ranch. The foundations proposed the competition as the best way to build the next generation of high school.

LOA's initial design drawings can be [viewed on the DPS website](#).



The LOA concept of Stapleton's new high school

<http://www.stapletondenver.com/community/education/highschool.asp>

Westerly Creek Elementary

The groundbreaking for Stapleton's first elementary school, Westerly Creek Elementary, took place in May 2002, with classes beginning August 18, 2003. The innovative campus is the first of its kind in Colorado with a 350-student DPS elementary school (K-5) sharing common facilities and play areas with the 220-student Odyssey Charter School (K-8), an expeditionary learning school modeled after Outward Bound.

The innovative campus will also introduce an early childhood learning program for preschool education that will integrate with the elementary school program.

Stapleton's second elementary school is scheduled to open in fall 2006.



Westerly Creek Elementary, within walking distance in the Stapleton neighborhood, offers kindergarten thru fifth grade classes as well as early childhood education classes.



http://www.stapletondenver.com/community/education/Westerly_Creek.asp

DPS / Odyssey School Joint Elementary Campus

Stapleton's first elementary school broke ground in spring 2002 and opened in August 2003. It is an innovative campus with a 350-student DPS elementary school (K-5) sharing common facilities and play areas with the 220-student Odyssey Charter School (K-8), an expeditionary learning school modeled after Outward Bound.

This first innovative campus introduces an early childhood learning program for pre-school (age 4) only education that will integrate with the elementary school program.

The Expeditionary Learning Philosophy

The Odyssey School is based on the Expeditionary Learning/Outward Bound philosophy. Expeditionary Learning is one of seven "break the mold" school designs funded over a five-year period by New American Schools, a Bush Administration and private sector initiative that called for radically new models of education built upon high standards and yielding dramatic improvement in student achievement. There are now more than 50 Expeditionary Learning schools in 14 places nationwide, including the Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning in Denver, which was one of the original 12 Expeditionary Learning schools.

The fundamental idea behind Expeditionary Learning is that students learn more by experiencing the world than by sitting in a classroom listening to a teacher talk about it. Expeditionary Learning harnesses the child's natural passion to learn and is a powerful method for helping children develop the curiosity, knowledge, skills, and personal qualities they need for successful adulthood.

Expeditions -- journeys into the unknown for a definite purpose -- are the heart of The Odyssey School's methodology. Although some curricular skills are taught separately, for the most part, students acquire knowledge and skills through learning expeditions that cut across and make connections among disciplines. Each expedition has specific and well-defined academic, service, and physical goals. All expeditions culminate with exhibitions or final products that must meet high standards. These products are the vehicle for students to synthesize what they have learned and to demonstrate how they can use it.



<http://www.stapletondenver.com/community/education/odyssey.asp>

Denver School of Science and Technology

The Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST), a DPS charter high school, returned from the Holiday Break on January 4, 2005 to begin the spring term at its brand new campus at Montview and Valencia. Forest City Stapleton, Inc. made the new location possible by donating ten-acres of land at the Stapleton site. DSST opened its doors for the first time on August 31, 2004 to 131 ninth graders at a temporary location in Park Hill. DSST will continue to add a new class of freshman each year and will be fully enrolled with grades 9-12 by fall 2007.

The mission of DSST is dedicated to providing an outstanding liberal arts high school education with a science and technology focus to a diverse student body. By creating a powerful learning community centered on core values and a shared commitment to academic excellence, DSST will increase the number of under-represented students (women, minorities and economically disadvantaged) who attain science and liberal arts college degrees. DSST graduates will be responsible, engaged citizens who are prepared to be leaders of the future.



http://www.stapletondenver.com/community/education/denver_school_science_technology.asp

Anchor Center for Blind Children

Anchor Center for Blind Children, a nonprofit organization that teaches life skills to young children with visual impairments, will move to a new \$3.5 million school that is scheduled to open at Stapleton on August 17, 2007.

Anchor Center will erect a 15,000 square-foot school south of the East 29th Avenue Town Center. The building will be acoustically suited to the needs of blind and partially sighted children, who often have very sensitive hearing. Because many children with visual impairments are also sensitive to light and can perceive color, classrooms will feature appropriate colors and textured walls to benefit "way finding."

The school will have a sensory garden and playground with "cane walks" and safe places for climbing and riding tricycles Anchor Center chose Stapleton for its new school because it offers a pedestrian-friendly environment that will enable its staff to help students explore their environment.

The Anchor Center for Blind Children will serve an estimated 100 student on site and 300 others through outreach programs.



<http://www.stapletondenver.com/community/education/anhcorcenter.asp>

Primrose School

Primrose School, one of the nation's leading providers of educational childcare, will open in the fall of this year across from Fred Thomas Park at Stapleton.

The Primrose concept is based on principles of "balanced learning" that inspire children to think for themselves and explore their own abilities while being guided by a highly trained professional staff that instills in children a love of learning and the resources necessary to achieve success in school and throughout life.

The Primrose programs are enhanced by the inclusion of music, character development and other essential components of a daily curriculum. Primrose will serve children from six weeks to twelve years in age for preschool, pre-Kindergarten and private full-day Kindergarten classes.



<http://www.stapletondenver.com/community/education/primrose.asp>