

IRVING ELEMENTARY



Irving Elementary, Joplin, Missouri

As part of the rebuilding process in Joplin, Irving Elementary opened to students on January 6, 2014. Sapp Design Associates (SDA), one of the largest architectural firms in Springfield, was the architect on the project. A full service firm, SDA has a diverse portfolio of public and private projects that are a testimony to their vast knowledge and innovative thinking. Focusing on projects that are not only great in design, but truly meet the needs and budget of each client, SDA worked closely with Joplin Schools to create an adaptive learning facility for the 21st Century.

“When we first met with the District Administrators, they had a vision of what they thought the building should be,” Michael Sapp, SDA President said. “Our design team worked with a committee consisting of a mix of teachers, parents, kids, administrators and school board members. Their voices and opinions played a significant role in the ultimate design direction.”

By working with students on the project, as well as members of the Joplin community, the SDA team was able to see “through the eyes of the kids” and gain a better understanding of what today’s children think a school should be. As a result, Irving Elementary is a leading example of 21st Century school design.

Students are divided into three learning neighborhoods making central access to the core functions of the building easily accessible to everyone. Core spaces include a multipurpose cafeteria, library space, art and music classrooms, several project labs, as

well as two FEMA tornado safe rooms. Classrooms border collaborative learning parks for group teaching and activities, with transparency between classrooms and the learning park for visual connectivity and a sense of community. Transparency and color are used throughout the building, and the entire facility is designed to be flexible and adaptable to team teaching and project based learning methodologies.

The design incorporated many sustainable principles such as high-efficiency mechanical and lighting systems, a building management system, regional building materials, and prominently features salvaged items from the original Irving Elementary. In addition, with the District working to implement a one-to-one initiative and put technology in the hands of every student and encourage a collaborative teaching philosophy, the building lends itself to flexible learning and teaching opportunities, and as technology changes, it will easily accommodate new innovations.

“Sapp Design helped us re-invent elementary education in Joplin,” Dr. C.J. Huff, Superintendent of Joplin Schools said. “The end result is a school designed through the eyes of children and is a new landmark in our community.”

SDA is headquartered in Springfield, and also has an office in Joplin. SDA has been working with school districts and universities for more than 28 years, and is one of the country’s leading designers of FEMA Safe Rooms.

Sapp Design Associates, Architects

Address:

3750 S. Fremont
Springfield, MO 65804

Phone: 417-877-9600

Email: info@sdaarchitects.com

Web Address:

www.sdaarchitects.com

Top Executives:

Michael Sapp, President
Jim Stufflebeam, Vice President

Year Founded: 1986

Number of Employees: 22

Product or Service:

Architecture, Master Planning, Sustainable Design, Conceptual Design, Engineering, Construction Management, Grant Administration, Campaigning, Revit BIM, 3D Visualizations, Schedules and Bond Issues



SAPP DESIGN
ARCHITECTS