

# K-8

## takeaways

In 2016, Grimm + Parker Architects collected data from over 150 educators and administrators on their direct experience working in K-8 schools. Our goal was to understand the advantages and disadvantages, as received by those who have worked in this environment.

We developed a list of eight takeaways, not advocating for or against K-8, but rather to guide each unique district's decision making.

- 1 The **intentional mixing** of age groups have many perceived benefits.
- 2 Although larger **K-8s allow for greater resources** and offerings for middle school students, they may not be viewed as neighborhood schools.
- 3 It is vital that **middle schoolers have their growing maturity honored** and engaged so they are better prepared for high school.
- 4 The involvement of incredibly dynamic and committed teachers is a must!
- 5 **Communities are strengthened by K-8s**, but less so as K-8s grow in size.
- 6 To ensure success in K-8 schools, **a principal and two assistant principals are needed** at a minimum.
- 7 The **academic benefits** of K-8 schools were not perceived to be the most important issue.
- 8 It's imperative to **create an inclusive culture**, appropriate for all ages.

### Learn more about planning for success

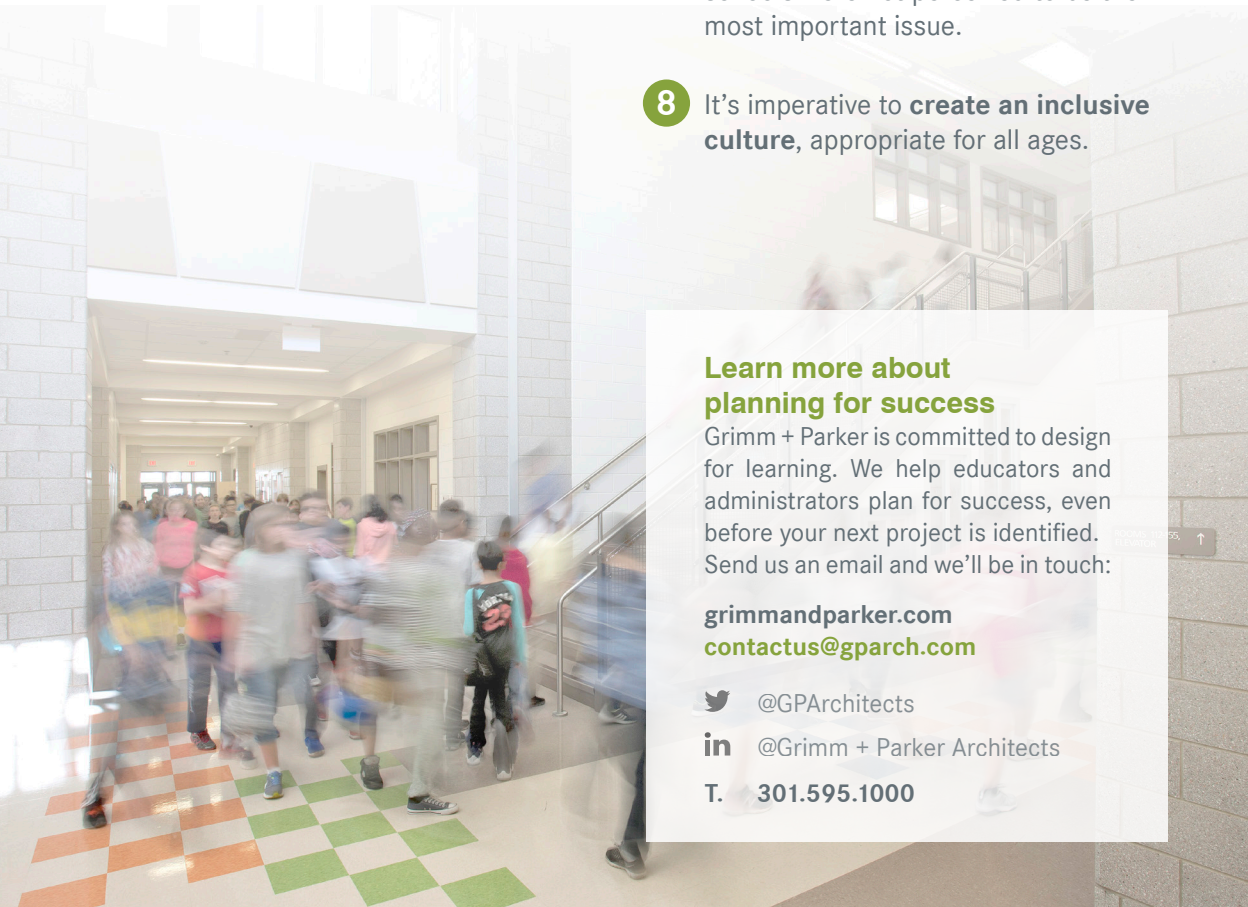
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# K-8 case study

Waverly PreK-8 brings together historic elements from this storied neighborhood that once housed Memorial Stadium, with thoughtful design for a joint elementary and middle school population on a tight, urban site.

Constructed in phases, the school is organized to separate age groups by floors and provide them with distinct identities. Circulation paths keep to the ends of the classrooms on each floor, ensuring separate flows for elementary and middle school students. All educational spaces are rich with natural daylight, with classroom furniture allowing for mobility and flexible learning combinations. The design maximized glazing and transparency throughout the school, and uses color sparingly to provide emphasis but allow personalization.

The cafeteria and gymnasium are on opposite ends of the building, allowing for multiple after-hours activities.

The school's facade responds to and mirrors its urban context. The brick first floor takes inspiration from the neighboring residences, while the metal-clad upper floors reflect the 21st Century vision of the school.

The exterior also features relief art panels from the former elementary school and a World War II Memorial from the stadium that once stood across the street, an appropriate reflection of the history and legacy of this place.



## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- + Baltimore City Public Schools
- + 121,000 sf, 890 students
- + New Construction
- + Anticipating LEED Gold Certification

## TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WAVERLY VISIT

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