



## SAWNEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We were originally given the assignment of an Addition & Renovation of the existing Sawnee Elementary School in Forsyth County, Georgia. The original Sawnee campus consisted of two schools on 28 acres. Sawnee Primary School (housing grades K-2) was only a few years old. Sawnee Elementary School (housing grades 3-5) was a jumble of additions to an existing building that dated back to the 1940's. The space available on the site prevented us from expanding that building logically. We decided to demolish the existing Elementary School building and build a new facility that matched the character and color scheme of the adjacent Primary School.

Our new design consisted of an administration suite, 47 classrooms, a multipurpose room that is used also by younger kids before and after school, a large media center, art rooms, a special needs wing, kitchen, cafeteria with stage, and a music suite connected to the stage. This school became the basis for the design of the Forsyth County Prototype Elementary School.

We also faced the challenge of designing a building with a large program of spaces into very tight site constraints. The ideal design that would give every room an outside window was impossible. We decided to elevate the roof in the front half of the building higher than the back, thus creating clerestory windows along the entire length of the main cross corridor that they have designated "Main Street". The rooms in the center of the building have windows to this corridor, creating indirect sunlight where there is no direct access to the exterior.

This building is traditional school construction, with rigid steel frame, non-load bearing masonry walls, brick veneer exterior, standing seam metal roof and water source heat pumps to heat and cool the building.

The Owner has been extremely pleased with the results of our efforts. We were under a very tight design time constraint, as was the General Contractor who build this project, but managed to open the school on time for the 2002 school year.

architecture

L

engineering

P

interiors

B

C

CUMMING, GA

**Owner:** Forsyth County Schools

**Acreage:** 28

**Construction Cost:** \$6,493,000

**GSF/Unit:** 1,754

**Cost/SF:** \$78.75

**Number of Students:** 812

**Number of Classrooms:** 47

**Cost/Classroom:** \$138,149

**Construction Start:** July 2001

**Construction Time:** 13 Months

**Civil Engineering:**

**McFarland-Dyer & Associates**

**Mechanical Engineering:**

**Spurlock & Associates**



Library/Media Center

architecture

L

engineering

P

interiors

B

C

# SAWNEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CUMMING, GA



"Main Street" Cross Corridor with Clerestory



Library/Media Center



Stage Connecting Music Rooms to Cafeteria



Cafeteria/Activity Space

Bus Fueling Station

