

THE GODDARD SCHOOL

CLARKSBURG, MARYLAND



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Across a five acre site in rural Clarksburg, we completed the site planning, exterior and interior architecture for The Goddard School. As the Goddard Schools' curriculum develops from play and intuitive learning, design was guided by creating a physical space that could adapt to a variety of forward-thinking programs for students. Design choices were also mindful of the traditionally rustic architecture of Clarksburg.

A completely customized and innovative effort, the LEED certified, 22,000 square foot facility encompasses two buildings: a traditional daycare and childcare center, and an annex building with an uncommon array of after school facilities. A welcoming and sunlit space punctuated by gables, clerestory windows, and porch-style details, the overall project scale continues to reference Clarksburg's rural landscape. Variation in roof lines, deft choices in site plan arrangement, and vibrant interiors enhance the rural details with a modern, contrasting balance.



2016 AIA POTOMAC VALLEY

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN AWARDS

A single access road from Frederick Avenue directs families up a sloped driveway into the small parking lot. The owner worked with county officials and internal staff to limit the amount of on-site parking to 70% below required by zoning. The site plan shows the heavily wooded site and the close relationship between the two buildings and exterior playgrounds.



SITE PLAN
SCALE: 1" = 50'

In a view of the daycare building, shifting roof lines define visual and physical spaciousness. Exposed gable ends of the steep 1:1 roof slope articulates the need to extend the building footprint beyond the roof line. Directly above the school's main entrance, intermediate roof angles provide visual clues, distinguishing the school's office functions from the student classrooms.



Maryland building code requires every classroom to have direct access to an outdoor area, and each student classification to have their own shaded play area. The back of the daycare building looking east shows the infant area and a vegetable patch. A heavily forested buffer frames all the play areas around the back of the site, and transom windows were selected to increase each classroom's natural light and outdoor views.



This perspective from the back of the annex building looking towards the daycare building emphasizes the forested site and the beauty of views across the play areas. Using similar materials throughout the project kept the site and both buildings in harmony. Where applicable in taller spaces, the use of clerestory windows and dormers were designed to allow for natural light and views.



For the annex building, the steep sloped roof rotates differently from the main daycare building and a high clerestory dormer window is included, providing visual clues that a unique curriculum is housed within. The increased roof height also provides space for an elementary-sized indoor basketball court in the rear half of the building.



The core of after-school activities is the annex building's Exploration Hall. Students circulate between an art room with kiln, a yoga studio, a kitchen, a computer lab, a classroom, and a half-court basketball gym, centered around a play/workspace. To heighten the importance of this space for the school curriculum, we kept the ceiling open and exposed the complex wood-truss roof framing, providing lighting, and insight into the building's structure.



At the front of the school, we worked to design a visually intriguing, unintimidating, and uncluttered entrance. While the on-site parking is at the far end of the annex, away from the entrance, the raised roof level and subtle red door initiate a visual hierarchy, leading students and parents along a short, curved sidewalk to the door.

