



River Oaks Elementary School

Myrtle Beach, SC

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Entire School/Campus Building

PIKE - MCFARLAND - HALL ASSOCIATES, INC.

1300 Professional Drive, Suite 201
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Joseph C. Pike, AIA
843/497-0272

DESIGN TEAM

MB Kahn Construction—Coastal
Division, Contractor

DN Engineering, Inc.,
Civil Engineer

Kyzer & Timmerman,
Structural Engineer

Owens & Associates, Inc.,
Plumbing, Mechanical, Electrical,
and Fire Protection Engineers

Foodesign Associates, Inc.,
Food Service Equipment Consultant

REI Engineers,
Roofing Engineer

OWNER/CLIENT

Horry County Schools
Conway, SC

Dr. Cindy Elsberry, Superintendent
843/488-6716

KEY STATS

Grades Served: Pre-K-5

Capacity: 965 students

Size of Site: 40 acres

Building Area: 104,000 sq. ft.

Building Volume: 1.8 million cu. ft.

Space per Student: 108 sq. ft.

Cost per Student: \$16,580

Square Foot Cost: \$154

Construction Cost: \$16 million

Total Project Cost: \$21.5 million

Contract Date: June 2011

Completed: Aug. 2012

**Sustainability Rating System/
Applied/Status/Level:**

LEED/Registered/Certified Silver



In an attempt to match the rapid population growth of the area in the late 1990s and early 2000s, Horry County School District's construction projects had limited budgets, which resulted in buildings with a low initial construction cost, an emphasis on maintaining project schedules, low maintenance, and user-friendly components. The decline of the population growth in recent months has enabled the district to focus more on efficiency and life-cycle costs of building systems.

River Oaks Elementary School was based on a design previously constructed in the district. During this implementation, however, additional consideration was given to more efficient HVAC and electrical systems, reduced water usage, high-performance thermal envelope, low-VOC-emitting materials, and recycled content. This school also uses a "green thinking" teaching curriculum, which educates students about solar energy and other energy consumption, water gardening, low-emitting-fuel automobiles, and recycling of waste.

The project is pursuing a minimum LEED Silver certification. Supporting the green curriculum, a themed interior décor—divided into the four main sectors of the building—was implemented, with emphasis on solar power and energy conservation, water conservation, air quality, and preservation of natural resources.

Colorful interiors promote a lively experience, with sensitivity to appropriate lighting in educational spaces. Informational signage to further enhance resources awareness supporting each theme, along with a combination of textures, colors, and decorative acoustic panels, line the corridor walls to provide a creative atmosphere and trans-



form circulation spaces into a teaching opportunity.

The media center and administration space are centrally located, allowing for ease of access from all educational spaces in the school. The importance of staff supervision was taken into account during the design of this area, and travel distance along the corridor was minimized, with a view to all areas of the circulation path.

The multipurpose room was located to provide minimal distraction to educational spaces and to promote after-hours use. The space features separate

exterior entrances and access to public restrooms while securing the portions of the building not in use. The bus parking area outside the multipurpose room can be dual-used as parking for large events.

For curriculum support, interactive digital information boards were creatively implemented along the main gallery/corridor as a teaching tool for an understanding of the building's energy consumption, utilizing live monitoring of the building systems, along with comparable data from other facilities in the district. ■

