

# William L. Thompson Elementary School



2000 Illinois Association of School Boards **Honorable Mention** for Excellence in the Design of Educational Environments

## Lake Villa Consolidated School District 41 · Lake Villa, Illinois

This new early childhood through 5<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school sits on a 20-acre site, surrounded by natural resources, including approximately two acres of mature woodland and a small area of wetlands. It was important that the school not be invasive to the landscape, therefore it was designed to blend into its natural environment.

Thompson Elementary School was conceived as a one-story building with a four-section floor plan. Each section flows from a centralized support area containing the learning resource center, art and music classrooms, and the computer lab. Three branches located off the centralized support area house groups of students determined by grade levels. Each house or branch is a self-sufficient community. The small learning communities offer students and teachers a multitude of benefits, including a flexible arrangement of space, group storage for each community, a variety of different size spaces for large and small group activities, and adjacent washrooms and drinking fountains.

The multi-purpose room, gymnasium, stage, and kitchen areas are all housed in the fourth branch. By grouping these areas together, two objectives were met: 1) reduce high noise disruption; and 2) limit community access to the stage and gymnasium areas of the school. Safety and security in the building, especially during after-hours programs, was successfully addressed in the design as well.

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**Construction Manager**  
Professional Construction Management, Inc.

**Budget**

- Building Size 74,088 SF
- Student Capacity 750
- Budget \$9,576,500
- Construction Cost \$8,986,301
- % Difference -6%  
(Under Budget)



**Time**

- Construction Start April 1998
- Completion Date August 1999

**Key Staff**

- John Maurer
- Alan Crovetti

**Consultants**

- Civil Gary A. Wiss, Inc.
- Structural Barry A. Goldberg
- Mechanical/Electrical CS2 Design Group



**Contact**

Dr. Michael Anderson  
131 McKinley Avenue  
Lake Villa, Illinois 60046  
847.356.2385

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