The Welcome Center in the school's main office is convenient, inviting, and through transparency, a key element in fostering a subtle sense of security within the school.

The building's performance data is available to each class on their interactive whiteboards, encouraging inclusion of the sustainable attributes of the building into the curriculum. Ten hours per year is planned for the sustainable curriculum the school is currently prototyping. On the green screen, near real time (updated every 15 minutes) water and energy use and CO2 levels are benchmarked against the performance of a more conventional school building. Responding to the school's multi-national student body - students and their families come from over 25 countries - the green screen is also available to be read in Russian, Spanish and French. The data is available to the community on a touch screen in the heart of the school.

Stoddert is the first school in Washington, DC to use a ground source heat pump system (aka "geothermal") to heat and cool the entire building. 72 wells were drilled below the sports field (as displayed on the green screen).
Classrooms in the 1932 building have been enlarged to accommodate varied configurations and feature plentiful display opportunities, storage, natural light, views and technology.
Classroom “porches”, displays and built-in seating activate the circulation within the classroom neighborhoods in the addition. On the first floor the porches lead directly outside.
This loggia, called “the Porch”, creates a transitional environment between indoors and out and is designed to shade the addition’s south facing curtainwall in the peak cooling months. During the winter the sun enters the building to warm the terrazzo floors inside the curtainwall helping to passively heat the building.

On the west side of the site, the 1932 building and the addition help define a woodland courtyard that is a counterpoint to the more formal sports fields on the east side of the site.
The multi-purpose room is designed for art and science classes as well as community meetings. One of the building’s two planted, green roofs is featured just outside of the windows.

The cafeteria is zoned within the school to serve the school during the day and the community after hours. Terrazzo floors in the building’s most public spaces ensure durability and ease maintenance.
The gym features a full size basketball court and bleachers to accommodate after hours use by the community center. Expanses of glass capture generous natural light and views.

Also, responding directly to the concerns of the neighbors on Davis Place to the north about looking at the building’s “back” from their houses, the building creates a “second front” and a civic presence through the use of curtainwall and masonry. Because of the elevation change placing the gym glazing above the street and adjacent to the street tree canopy, neighbors have commented positively on how the glazing visually amplifies the presence of the trees.

A two-sided stage addresses the gym and an outdoor amphitheater. The stage opens onto the amphitheater through sliding glass doors.
The school has embraced the “building as a teaching tool” and the student-led Energy Patrol provides guided tours of the sustainable features of the LEED Gold campus.

Stoddert achieved LEED for Schools Gold. In addition to saving energy its sustainable attributes will enhance learning. For example, the enhanced acoustical design improved the quality of the learning environment and achieved an innovation credit.

LEED® for Schools Credit Scorecard

Stoddert Elementary School
EHRENKRANTZ ECKSTUT & KUHN ARCHITECTS
March 2, 2011
The original 1932 master plan for the campus called for an additional classroom wing to the east of the existing and a central multi-purpose building, all organized around an entry court on axis with 40th Street. The 2009 addition fulfils this master plan while preserving the monumental trees that grew in since 1932.

The existing building (yellow box on the left side of the plan) was part of the 1932 master plan for an expanded campus that was never fully implemented. That plan would have created a courtyard entrance on axis with 40th Street but over time, a parking lot occupied that area.
Situated in the midst of a walkable urban neighborhood, Stoddert has become the center of its community. The joint use of the expanded building by the school and Parks and Recreation builds upon the already active community use of the fields.

Sitting in the middle of the campus the building responds to two very different landscapes. On the east, a plateau with a sports field and fewer trees creates a formal, active urban edge. On the west, a large mass of trees and steep topography create a more quiet woodland setting.

**EXISTING SITE PLAN: A MATURE LANDSCAPE**

One of the first analysis diagrams was developed with the community to identify the most important trees on the site. The addition was designed around these trees to retain the site’s rich landscape.

**1st Floor Plan**
A set of doors in the circulation adjacent to the cafeteria defines the spaces available to the community center (right) from those exclusively used by the school (left and center).

**2nd Floor Plan**
The existing and new buildings define small academic neighborhoods with shared facilities located centrally.