

Tapestry Charter School

New Elementary School Designed to Inspire K-5 Learners



The main entrance of the school provides a visual and welcoming entry for children and families and was designed to be as unique and welcoming as the people inhabiting the space. The classic design of the administrative area anchors the building and the orientation provides a clear visual over watch of the entry zone, bus and parent drop off areas.



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ARCHITECTS / ENGINEERS



Library - Located on the second floor, vibrant colors, natural light, and flexible seating create a welcoming atmosphere for students and teachers that can be reconfigured to accommodate different uses. This collaborative, flexible, technology rich space for students can be reconfigured by moving furniture into different configurations and used for collaborative and creative group learning.

LINDSAY SISTING PHOTOGRAPHY



THERE'S A NEW SCHOOL IN THE CITY OF BUFFALO

Built From the Ground Up within the footprint of the historic 1901 Pan-American Exposition grounds, the new Tapestry Charter Elementary School is making history of its own. And the architects and engineers at Trautman Associates' are proud to have played a key role in the design and construction of this new 3-story building that adds 25 classrooms, a STEAM laboratory, offices, a full-sized gymnasium, library, cafeteria, as well as specialty spaces for dance, music, theater and visual arts.

The new facility is located at 111 Great Arrow Avenue, adjacent to the current school on its 12.93 acre campus. The new building is home to Kindergarten through fifth grades, which were previously housed in the school's main facility. Moving the K-5 students to a new building allowed Tapestry to increase enrollment. This 13-month construction project was completed on time and under budget.

Trautman Associates has been working with Tapestry to keep in step with the school's growth, providing design and planning services for three major expansions dating back to 2008. For this most recent expansion, Tapestry needed to expand their campus to accommodate a growing student population and expand their athletic facilities. Many factors were involved in the success of this project, but two major factors tipped the scale in Tapestry's favor: intentional design and effective teamwork.



RP OAK HILL
BUILDING COMPANY INC.

Congratulations Tapestry Charter School on your new K-5 building.

We were proud to work with McGuire Development and Trautman Associates on this great project.



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Third Floor - 4th & 5th grade classrooms

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Deliberate Design



Second Floor - 2nd & 3rd grade classrooms

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Tapestry's vision for its new school featured a building that was more than a rectangular building filled with classrooms. They envisioned a structure that not only functioned as needed, but also displays the wonderful diversity that is reflected in the people that are Tapestry.

The design was inspired by the school's definition of the word tapestry - meaning a "pictorial cloth, carefully woven for both form and function, its individual threads combined to create a unique work of art that was most often displayed to add warmth to the surroundings." (tapestryschool.org)

This meant that the built structure had to meet or exceed both Tapestry's functional and aesthetic needs, just as Tapestry's students are taught to grow academically and socially, to help them become well-rounded, caring learners prepare them for future academic learning.

This was critical to defining project parameters in terms of size and space – practical consideration such as square footage, classroom capability, inclusion of specialty

classrooms, budget, and project timeline, as well as selection of materials that establish an ambiance that is uniquely Tapestry.

The interior design balances light, colors, materials, textures and form to create spaces that promote and inspire learning and collaboration. Ample natural light was provided throughout the building by creating direct views to the outside and landscaped areas. The modern exterior of the building offers vibrant colors and patterns using multi-colored, modular linear insulated metal panels in place of traditional brick and mortar schools of yesterday.

Design for the building's construction focused heavily on using durable but cost-effective and energy efficient solutions for everything from the steel frame construction to the building's engineered systems. Even the building's orientation was considered when selecting the windows and doors using solar-controlled glass to reduce solar heat gain while still providing the natural light that was so critical to the interior spaces. Energy efficiency was further enhanced by increased wall and roof insulation and high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment and occupancy-based lighting controls.

Outside, site design features traffic, parking and student drop off areas designed to relieve congested street and site traffic and creates a safer environment for children as they enter and exit the school building and grounds. Design was also completed for future site work including a regulation high school soccer field, green activity spaces, and a playground. A six-lane running track and field was also designed to meet National Federation of High Schools standards, making it possible for Tapestry to host field and track events within its urban setting.

The design required creative thinking to work within the boundaries of the site, meet an aggressive construction schedule while remaining on budget.


Trautman Associates was proud to join Tapestry's students, faculty, staff, and administrators for a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 4, 2018, signaling a new beginning for the K-5 students who attend Tapestry Charter School and celebrating the end of a fast-paced construction project.

Tapestry's Executive Director, Eric Klapper, said it best at the ribbon-cutting ceremony:

The building sits here on Great Arrow Avenue at the head of Lincoln Parkway on the former site of the Plaza at the Pan American Exposition of 1901. Back at the turn of the century, the Pan Am's purpose was to inspire. It asked people to look forward, look to the future. What a great metaphor for our school community today.

The design of the façade of the administration building at the main entrance gives a nod to the period architecture of the Pan American exposition site and our main stairway that winds around our elevator tower was built purposefully at the exact center of Lincoln Parkway in order to act as a beacon, as the electric tower was at the Pan Am site back in 1901. At night, we will light this stairway and it will be seen across the far reach of the city.

I would like to thank Trautman Associates for designing such an inspiring place to learn and grow.



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I would like to thank Trautman Associates for designing such an inspiring place to learn and grow."

ERIC KLAPPER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ribbon-cutting, September 4, 2018



Effective Teamwork

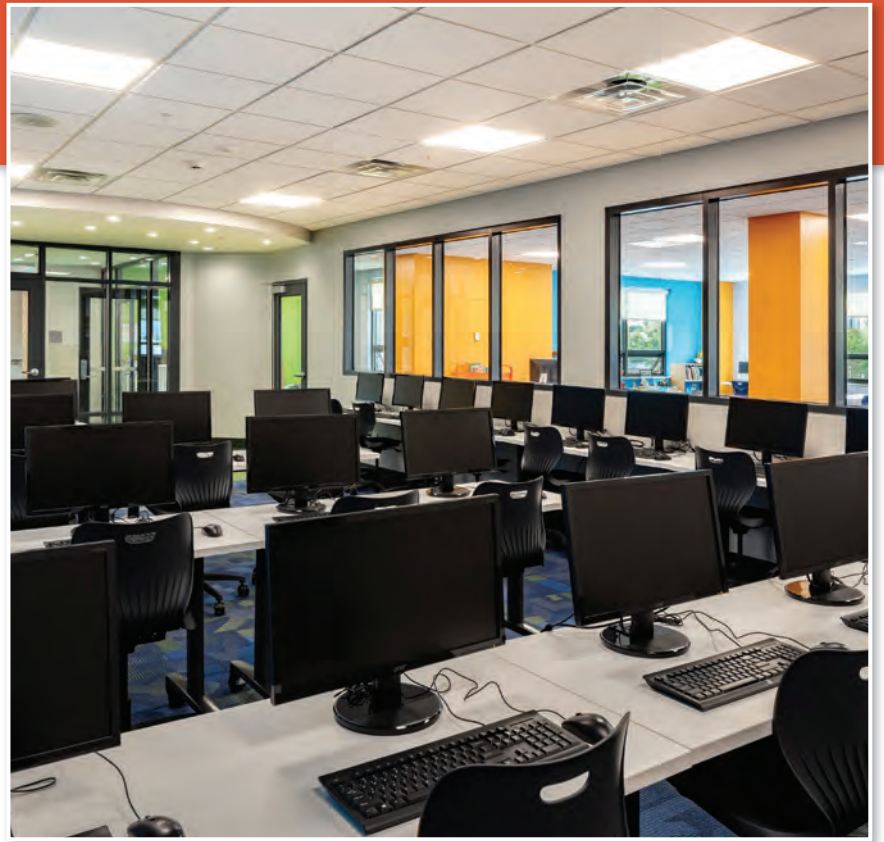
The success of this project was most assuredly a team effort. Tapestry's leadership and its building and planning committee are to be commended for establishing a vision early on and providing unwavering commitment to its mission. This meant the end goal was consistently in sight and obtainable, making it possible for design and construction to progress with few or no interruptions.

As the architect of record for this latest expansion, **Trautman Associates** was responsible for programming, space planning, architectural, structural engineering, interior design, site development, civil engineering, and landscaping. For the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection engineering, Trautman Associates worked with seasoned design-build firms to ensure full integration of design and construction services.

RP Oak Hill Building Company, Inc. provided construction management services for the project, making sure the important contributions of nearly 50 quality subcontractors were effectively coordinated to ensure the project was completed on time and under budget.

McGuire Development Company acted as the Owner's Representative. McGuire worked with Tapestry and the Trautman Associates to investigate a multitude of facilities and options for the permanent school, as well as evaluating alternative solutions to ensure that the construction time frame would not affect the school year.

Trautman Associates, RP Oak Hill, and McGuire Development acted as a well-integrated team to ensure a successful outcome for the client.



Computer Lab - A computer lab is located in the main library on the 2nd floor. The space is comfortable, functional, engaging and inspires active learning. Windows open to the library provide natural lighting and connection to the library and to the outside spaces.

LINDSAY SISTING PHOTOGRAPHY



STEAM Classroom - This classroom was designed to introduce K-5 learners to an applied science curriculum providing laboratory and project-based authentic experiences for the students and practices. The classroom features vibrant colors, open space, storage and work surfaces around the room's perimeter surrounding tables and chairs that can be arranged based on the program under study.

LINDSAY SISTING PHOTOGRAPHY



LINDSAY SISTING PHOTOGRAPHY

First Floor- Kindergarten & 1st grade classrooms - The bright, vibrant colors along with the quality, quantity and control of lighting enhance this modern day learning environment. The spaces are flexible allowing for multiple configurations to promote collaboration and support emerging pedagogies. Each floor has an individual color scheme to provide visual queues for the students and contributes to the building's energy and success.

CONGRATULATIONS TAPESTRY CHARTER SCHOOL!

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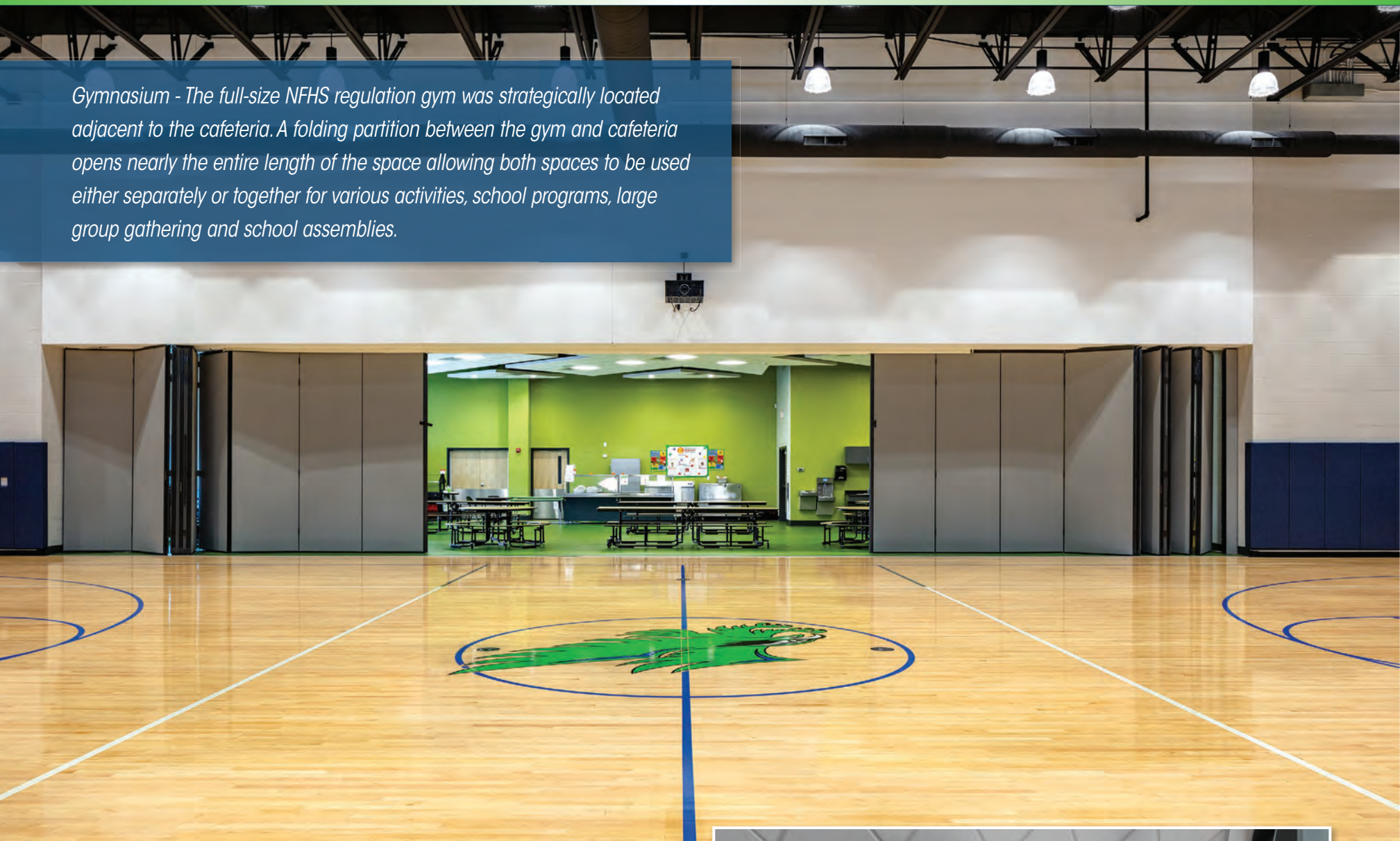
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Gymnasium - The full-size NFHS regulation gym was strategically located adjacent to the cafeteria. A folding partition between the gym and cafeteria opens nearly the entire length of the space allowing both spaces to be used either separately or together for various activities, school programs, large group gathering and school assemblies.



The limited site area, interior program and exterior site programs resulted in the design of a 3-story, 60,600 SF building that adds 25 classrooms and a STEAM laboratory, offices, a full-sized gymnasium, library, cafeteria, as well as classrooms for dance, theater and visual arts. The first floor contains administration offices and support spaces, a gymnasium, cafeteria, kindergarten/first grade classrooms, student support services, music room, theater room and dance studio. The second floor contains a library/media center, computer lab, art studio, student support services and second/third grade classrooms. The third floor consists of fourth/fifth grade classrooms, student support services and a STEAM lab.



Cafeteria - In addition to serving as the school's cafeteria, this space features an automated folding partition that joins the cafeteria and gymnasium to create a larger assembly space to address various program requirements. This multipurpose room with large windows and doors flood the space with natural light, and well-lit high ceilings that enhance the feeling of openness in the space.



Main Circulation Stairs - Designed to be viewed from the outside through a full-story glass curtain wall, the open staircase tower provides colorful interest in a typically utilitarian space. The lighted main stairway tower was built purposefully to act as a beacon, as the electric tower was at the Pan AM site here back in 1901.

ALL PHOTOS: LINDSAY SISTING PHOTOGRAPHY



South Elevation - Offering vibrant colors and patterns the multi-colored linear insulated metal panels provide a transformation from the traditional brick and mortar schools of yesterday and offers a contemporary, energetic design. Large windows depict the program's rhythm, while the solar controlled glazing reduces solar heat gain while still allowing visible daylight transmittance and unhindered views.

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Dance Classroom - Students are given the opportunity to experience dance as art in an educational setting, performing, creating, responding and connecting their dance learning to their own experiences. Designed to mirror a performance venue the wide rectangular area allows uninhibited movement. A sprung vinyl surface dance floor, mirrored walls for perfecting form and technique, high ceilings, natural and controlled artificial lighting provide a light and airy design sure to inspire student dancers.

LINDSAY SISTING PHOTOGRAPHY



Proud to be a part of the construction team for Tapestry Charter School.

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TRAUTMAN ASSOCIATES

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A TIMELINE OF PROGRESS:

We'd like to thank the teams from Tapestry, RP Oak Hill, McGuire Development and all the contractors for their commitment to making this project a success. A new school building brings inspiration and hope. Here's to a bright future for our community.



OCTOBER 2017
Foundation



DECEMBER 2017
Steel & Masonry Erection



FEBRUARY 2018
Metal Studs & Exterior Sheathing



APRIL 2018
Exterior Enclosure



JUNE 2018
Installation of Insulated Metal Panels



AUGUST 2018
Completion

Conclusion

Tapestry Charter School was founded in 2001 to provide a challenging and rigorous public education for students in grades K-12. Since then, Tapestry has grown in leaps and bounds, more than doubling its student population. This growth has been carefully managed by the Tapestry leadership team along with thoughtful expansions to the school campus. The school's leaders know from past experience that the environment in which students learn needs to inspire confidence and excellence.

Trautman Associates is proud to have been part of the team designing buildings and systems for educational design that reflects the talented and diverse students, teachers, staff and administrators that learn and grow academically and socially within its walls.

The Tapestry leadership team had a clear vision for creating an environment that supports the kinetic and wonderful ways children learn. Working on this project has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career."

ROBERT H. RUMPL, PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE



Robert H. Rumpl, AIA, CSI
Principal In Charge
Trautman Associates



TRAUTMAN ASSOCIATES

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Meet Our Project Team



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Lisa J. Lubozynski
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The architects and engineers at Trautman Associates are proud to have played a key role in the planning, design and construction of the new Tapestry K-5 Charter School.

716.883.4400

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