



General
Contractors

Whitehouse ISD Starts the School Year in Two New Schools



Whitehouse ISD Junior High

On August 21st Whitehouse ISD kicked off the 2018-2019 school year in their new academic buildings. Projects for this district include a new Junior High, new Elementary, additions and renovations to the existing High School, additions and renovations to the stadium, additional shop space at the bus barn, a repurposed Technology Center, and a newly renovated Education Support Center located at the old Mozelle Brown Elementary school.

Junior High School

The Junior High is a \$35,000,000 investment for the district and currently serves just over 800 7th and 8th grade students and can serve up to 1,200 in the future. This building has 3 academic wings, a cafetorium, two band halls, a choir room, full athletic accommodations including two gyms and a weight room, collaboration spaces, and flex spaces among other things. The school is located about 900 feet from a main highway in Whitehouse and sits next to the football stadium. Because of this high traffic location, the school board requested that Harris Craig Architects give special attention to the design of the front and the East elevation. The front of the school uniquely displays the Whitehouse ISD emblem and the East side prominently displays eleven inspirational words with 12" letters in cast stone. "The exterior materials are very familiar (brick, burnished cmu, metal panel & glass)," says Brett Patrick, architect for Harris Craig, "but are arranged in a modern composition."

This stunning school design was something WRL was proud to be part of. WRL has partnered with Harris Craig Architects to complete over \$300 million worth of construction projects.

Mozelle Brown Elementary School

Mozelle Brown Elementary was just under \$19,000,000 and has over 88,000 square feet. This building sees 625 pre-k through fifth graders each day and is designed to hold up to 750 students. Harris Craig Architects combined the site and program needs of WISD into an efficient three wing design, minimizing the length of the main corridor, filling it with natural light, and creating distinct heightened zones to help in wayfinding for students and parents. "This design ties the teaching objectives together with careful space planning to allow for maximum flexibility both now and in the future," according to Brice Harris, architect for Harris Craig. "With the



Whitehouse ISD Mozelle Brown Elementary replacement of Brown Elementary, Whitehouse Junior High, additions to Whitehouse High School, the Wildcat Athletic Complex, and many other projects, WISD is well-equipped to provide the highest level of education to all our students," Dr. Chris Moran, WISD School Superintendent, said. He goes on to say, "The construction projects made possible by our incredible community and the passing of a \$94.8 million-dollar bond in November 2016, have transformed Whitehouse ISD."

These aren't the first projects WRL has completed for Whitehouse ISD and we hope it won't be the last. Dr. Moran said, "WISD has worked with WRL before and knew they did great work in a timely manner. But, we have been amazed at WRL's ability to perform at such a high level even when weather conditions were not ideal. Whitehouse ISD started the new year in two new campuses, thanks to the dedication of WRL General Contractors and Harris Craig Architects. If we had it to do all over again, we would partner with WRL in a heartbeat. They are the best around!"



**Career and Technology
Education Centers**

Becoming More Common

In just the past few years, WRL has built several career and technology centers. The one we are most known for is the Tyler ISD Career and



Tyler ISD Career and Technology Center

and Technology Education Center in Tyler, Texas. These CTE centers are becoming a staple in modern education and are essential to our workforce.

Gone are the days of a mechanic opening the hood of a truck and figuring out what is wrong with it and how to fix it. In today's world mechanics use diagnostic software to determine a vehicle's problem and often must be well versed in technology to be able to fix it. And mechanics aren't the only ones who have to master advanced technology. Technology is spreading into all trades and will continue to go deeper. As a general contractor, our employees have seen this change first-hand. Our project superintendents no longer carry a set of drawings around. Instead, they each have an iPad with the drawings loaded on it. Our superintendents and our subcontractors are expected to use a cloud-based construction management software to house all their documents, updates, and job site related communications. This program allows everyone to be on the same page and have up-to-the-minute updates no matter where they are in the world.

As we continue to work with school districts, we look forward to building more career and technology centers. After all, these centers are supplying educated employees for our own industry.

WRL is Growing



WRL has added a new position to our organization chart. We have completed over \$1 billion in projects here in East Texas and as we continued to grow, we needed to create a new position to support our growing field staff. So, our company owners and general manager began the search for the perfect candidate to fill the roll of Operations Manager. The Operations Manager is an added resource to our project superintendents and project

Jim Birdd has filled this position and has already made an impact on our organization. Jim comes to WRL with over 30 years of construction management experience. He most recently came from the DFW Airport serving as the Director of Maintenance and Construction. There, Jim oversaw all construction projects within DFW Airport while also managing maintenance of the entire facility. Prior to that, Jim worked for FedEx Freight as the Corporate Facilities Director where he managed 12 FedEx regions in the United States and Canada.

When Jim isn't working, you can find him at his ranch near Athens with his wife, Terry Birdd, and their two dogs. Although he tends to be a workaholic, he is also a family man with 6 children and 12 grandchildren.

We are happy to have Jim on the WRL team and look forward to watching him lead and grow our field staff.

Projects in Progress at WRL

Tyler ISD John Tyler High School <i>Architects:</i> Stantec & Fitzpatrick	Tyler ISD Robert E Lee High School <i>Architects:</i> Corgan & Harris Craig	Whitehouse ISD High School Addition & Renos <i>Architect:</i> Harris Craig Architects
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Brookshire's - Remodel Bullard, Texas	Classical Academy Carrollton, Texas <i>Architect:</i> Wright Group Architects	Classical Academy Huntsville, Texas <i>Architect:</i> Wright Group Architects
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Texas Bank & Trust Lindale, Texas <i>Architect:</i> Harris Craig Architects	Sam Rayburn ISD Ivanhoe, Texas <i>Architect:</i> Cutright & Allen	Western Pulp Products Jacksonville, Texas <i>Architect:</i> Harris Craig Architects
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Wyoming Machinery Co. Tyler, Texas	Whitehouse ISD Education Support Center	
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Architect:
Harris Craig
Architects

Architect:
Harris Craig Architects

Fourth Quarter Birthdays and Work Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

October

Steve Hickey 10/8
Dylan Welch 10/16
Jason Pierce 10/18

November

Carolyn Lively 11/1
Melynda Hensley 11/7
Clemente Lopez 11/23
Jim Birdd 11/24
Kaiya Morris 11/27
Dee Ann Shelton 11/28

December

Maria Huckaby 12/2
Michael Palmer 12/15
Roy Shafer 12/19
Chelbie Bonnell 12/26

ANNIVERSARIES

October

Dave Clark - 20 years
Dee Ann Shelton - 19 years
Refugio Viramontes - 8 years
Charles Davenport - 3 years

November

Michael Palmer - 19 years
Robert Clifton - 4 years
Darryl Detten - 3 years

December

Sincerely,

Rachel Johnson
Business Development Manager
WRL General Contractors
[Website](#)

