

MIRAMICHI WEST SCHOOL

MIRAMICHI, NEW BRUNSWICK

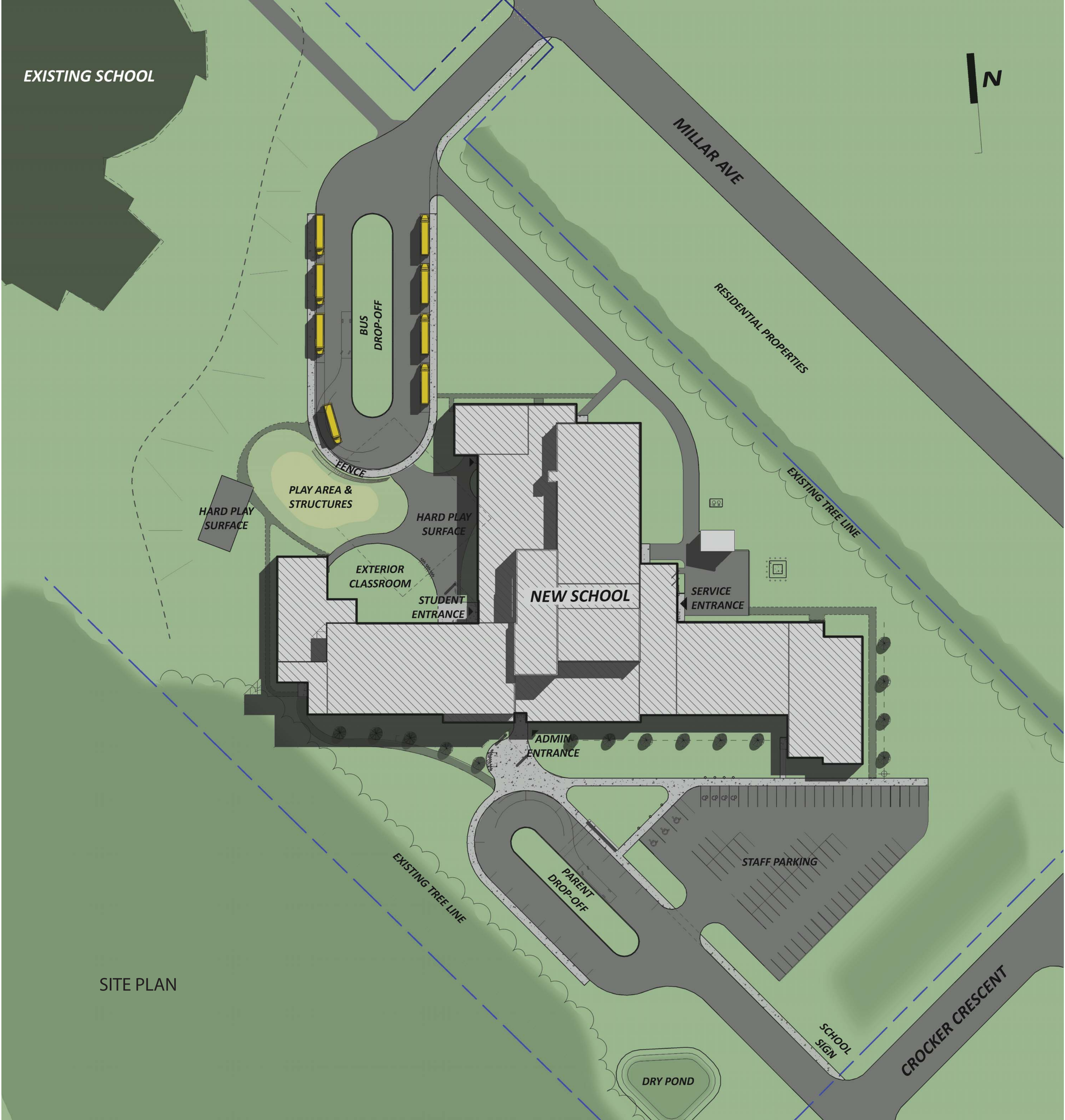


Image by Craig Frazier



Approaching the design of schools as a storyteller helps to set the stage for our understanding of the psychology of the child. It is important to us that the design of the school is as playful and simple as a storybook for children. As Craig Frazier does with his illustrations we, in our design, hope to help expand minds, young and old, through storytelling – in this case the story of “Ripples”.



Image by Craig Frazier



The analogy of storybook ripples allows us to impart to the design something playful and hopefully inspirational to the people using and visiting the school. Like a river, the school will be refreshed year after year with the flow of new minds to be molded and released, sending ripples out into the world. This strong metaphor guided our design approach and we hope it will serve students if only metaphorically in the otherwise very robust and rigid physical reality of the building.



MAIN FLOOR

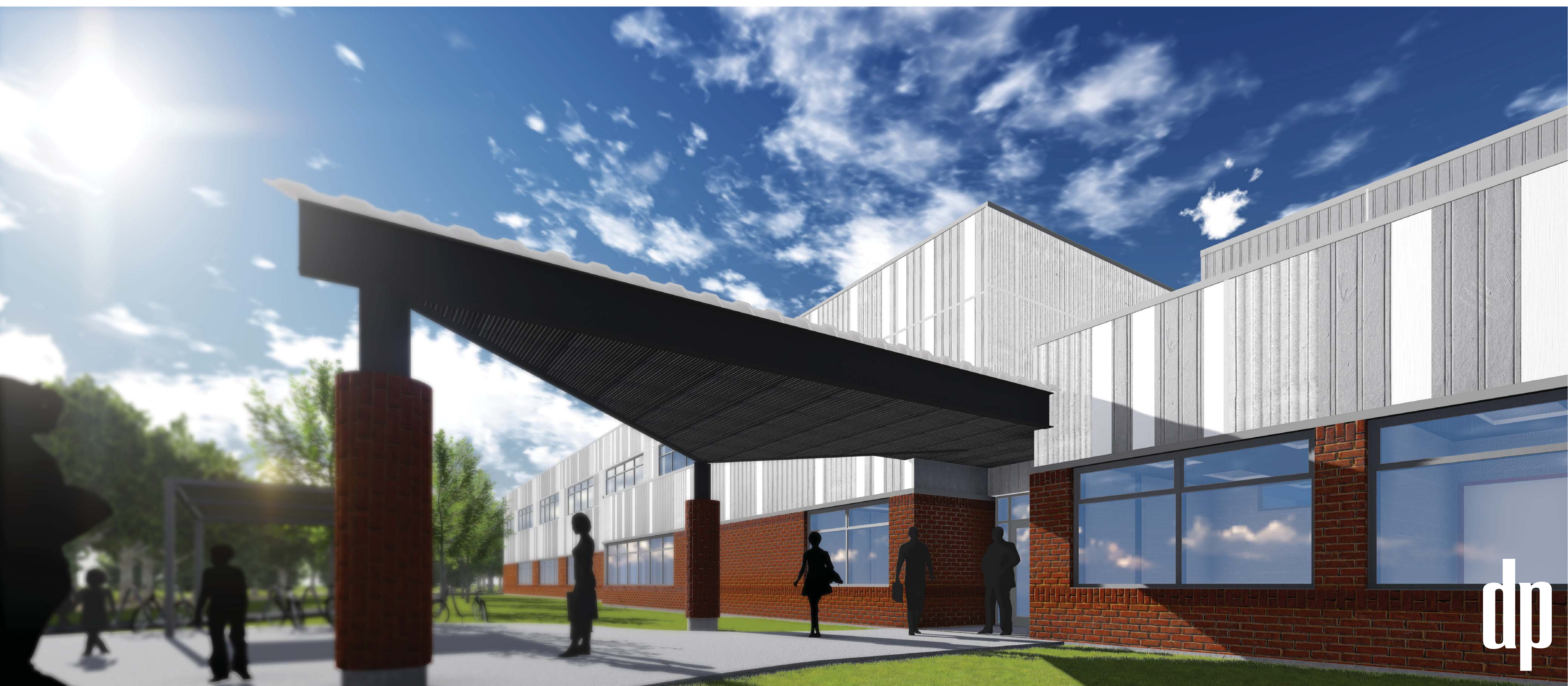
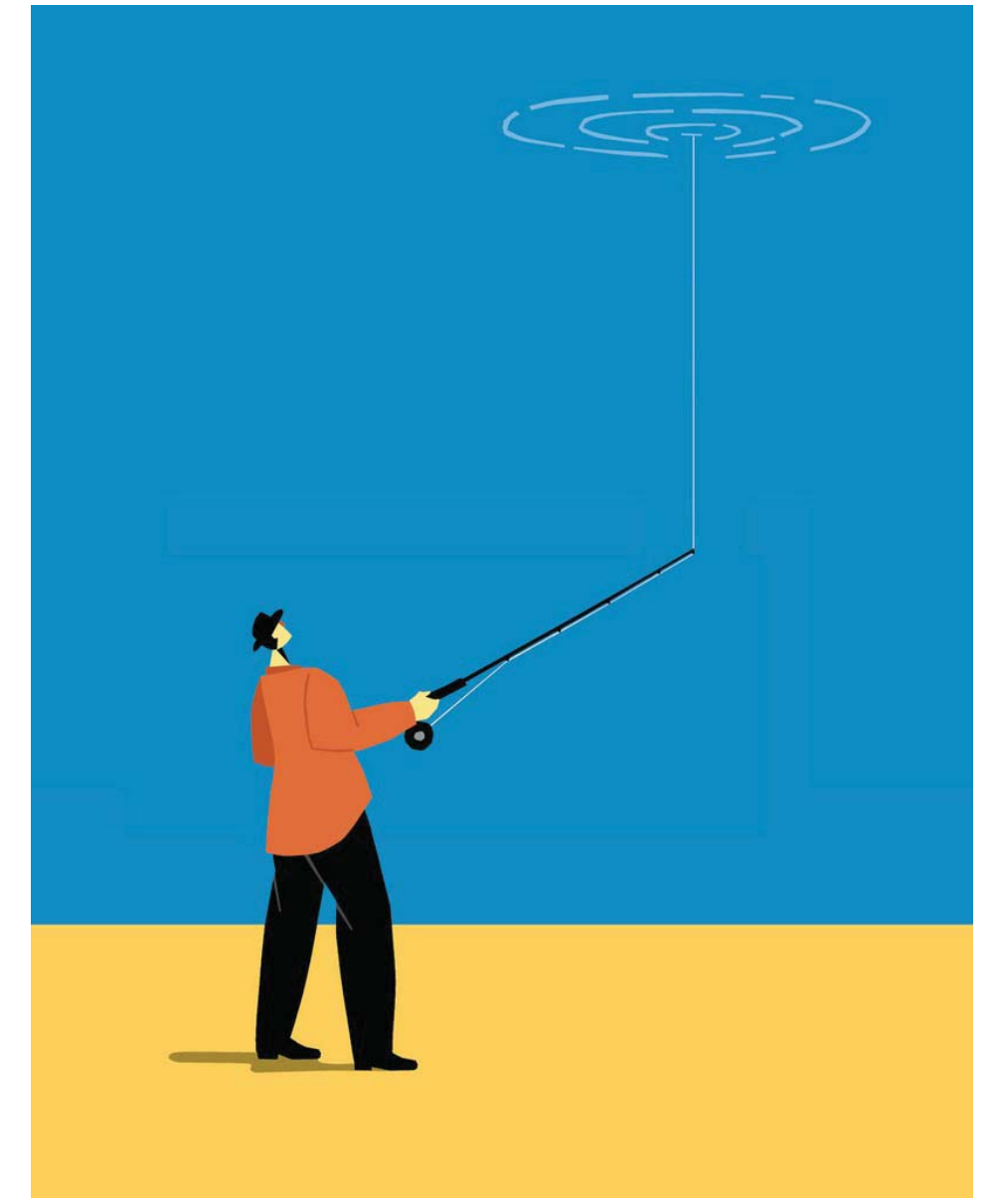
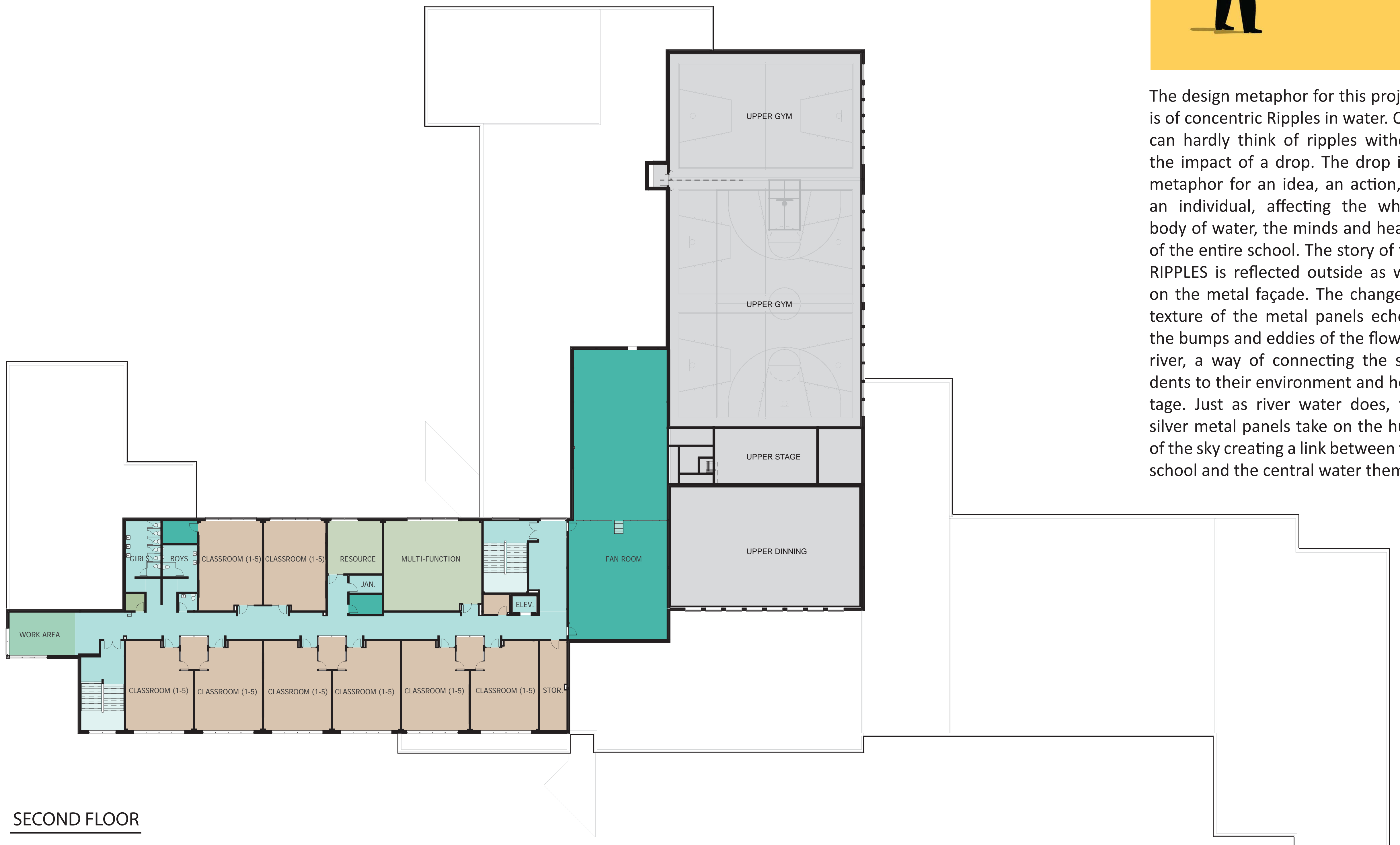


Image by Craig Frazier



The design metaphor for this project is of concentric Ripples in water. One can hardly think of ripples without the impact of a drop. The drop is a metaphor for an idea, an action, or an individual, affecting the whole body of water, the minds and hearts of the entire school. The story of the RIPPLES is reflected outside as well on the metal façade. The change in texture of the metal panels echoes the bumps and eddies of the flowing river, a way of connecting the students to their environment and heritage. Just as river water does, the silver metal panels take on the hues of the sky creating a link between the school and the central water theme.



SECOND FLOOR

