

#MasonryMatters

DEL ORO HIGH SCHOOL

Design Inspiration

Del Oro High School
by HMC Architects



Built with Masonry, Built to last 100+ Years!!

Education, Empathy, and Positive Change in a 77-acre canvas in **Bakersfield, California**, has transformed into an innovative high school fostering sustainability, student well-being, and empowerment for at-risk learners to reach their full potential.

Kern High School District (KHSD) is reshaping the future of education for its students and community with the recent completion and opening of its Del Oro High School project. In collaboration with HMC Architects, the district has created a high school experience that promises to catalyze change.



2024 CMACN/AIACA Concrete Masonry Design Merit Award for Education Design.



IIDA Southern California Calibre Design Award.



Gold Nugget Grand Award Winner, Best Educational Project (Housing Excluded).



2,500 Students

12 Reduction in Grade Failure Rates

89% Increase in Students Receiving 4.0 GPA

“This place is different. The whole design of the facility was meant to inspire learning.”

Gail Bentley
Del Oro High School Principal.





Campus spaces and NextGen learning

The new campus encompasses 227,000 SF of innovative student instruction spaces and services, supporting the growth and development of 2,500 students.

Every aspect of student life has been thoughtfully considered, from administration and counseling to food service, performing arts, and athletic programs. The campus center building is a vibrant hub, housing the library and cafeteria while facilitating community engagement. With its 600-seat theater, the performing arts center sits proudly at the public-facing corner, serving as a beacon of light, engaging the public to participate in captivating performances and events.

The shared athletics complex offers modern facilities, including a three-court gym, locker rooms, sports fields, and a future-planned aquatic center. As a testament to sustainability and environmental consciousness, a cluster of trees at the center of the quad has been meticulously curated to represent Del Oro's commitment to nurturing academic growth. These well-designed spaces foster collaboration, creativity, and student pride.



Why Choose Masonry?

"One of the key reasons for choosing CMU for this project was its longevity. The district wanted a project that would stand the test of time, and CMU provided a durable and affordable solution. Additionally, the availability of the material and experienced local labor helped offset the carbon footprint of the project. This material choice also complemented our "quilted landscape" concept, allowing us to select a variety of textures and colors that created a rich tapestry for the campus."

James Krueger, Design Director, HMC Architects.

A thoughtful mix of CMU Concrete Blocks with carefully selected colors, textures and shapes make of Del Oro High School a resilient building with beautiful aesthetics that will have a positive impact for many student generations in Kern High School District.

Cost savings through an immersive design process

This endeavor, which began with a series of immersive design workshops, witnessed the tireless efforts of a committed design team, working day and night to breathe life into a revolutionary concept in record time. Through active involvement and immediate feedback implementation, trust between the district and HMC's design team deepened.

This collaborative approach fostered a quicker design process while building consensus among stakeholders. The project was delivered within a shoestring budget (less than \$500 per SF), demonstrating HMC's commitment to cost-efficient solutions without compromising quality.



Credits

Architect: HMC Architects

Engineer: Hohbach-Lewin

General Contractor: SC Anderson

Masonry Contractor: Bratton Masonry

Block Producer: Angelus Block

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