

AN Immersive CULTURAL EXPERIENCE



BOSTON SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURE
HONOR AWARD, K12 DESIGN



AIA EASTERN OKLAHOMA
HONOR AWARD FOR DESIGN;
PEOPLES CHOICE AWARD, K12

AIA ARIZONA
DISTINGUISHED ARCHITECTURE CITATION

CASA BLANCA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

BAPCHULE, ARIZONA

JCJARCHITECTURE



Casa Blanca Community School
Gila River Indian Community

BAPCHULE, ARIZONA

The campus provides an immersive cultural experience, helping to preserve the languages, stories and traditions of the tribes.



This Pre K-6 school serves children and families from Districts 3, 4 and 5 of the Gila River Indian Community. It is surrounded by cultivated farmland and in a region which has historically been the agricultural hub for the Akimel O'otham (Pima) and Pee Posh (Maricopa) peoples. The campus provides an immersive cultural experience, helping to preserve the languages, stories and traditions of the tribes.

The layout of the campus takes inspiration from the agricultural fields that sustained the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh and the canals they were so skilled in constructing. Classroom cluster and core/community buildings are organized around a central ribbon of green space. The campus includes indoor and outdoor commons areas that provide each grade level cluster a space for flexible instruction.

On the western edge of the campus is an integrated Agriculture-Cultural Arts-Language-Applied Arts building. This building supports an exciting and immersive program bringing together the practical, scientific, historical and cultural underpinnings of agriculture. To celebrate water several features have been designed to connect students to the life sustaining cycle of rain and renewal.

In addition to a dedicated sensory classroom, playgrounds and all campus buildings are designed in alignment with Universal Design in Education principles and support inclusive experiences for all members of the school community. Working with a select group of parents and elders, the project incorporates a robust artwork program that expresses the creativity, ingenuity, culture and traditions of the Community.

102,400 sf
NEW CONSTRUCTION

586
Students
GRADES PRE K-6

Confidential
PROJECT COST

2021
COMPLETION

LEED Silver
PENDING



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