

Georgina Blach Intermediate School is a **high performance school** in all senses of the term:
academic, energy efficient, attractive,
exemplifying the strength of the community and the school program.

healthy



Georgina Blach Intermediate School is a model California High Performance School, receiving a grant from Pacific Gas and Electric Company to support additional engineering and documentation. Daylighting, natural ventilation, green materials, and adaptive reuse of existing structures in the project exemplify an attitude of responsibility and ongoing economy in resource use. Every classroom, new or modernized, has a large north-facing source of diffuse light. Compensatory lighting controls regulate use of electric lights to minimize energy use when daylight is sufficient.

In addition to the technical measures that save energy, the design makes this attitude visible. The walkway cover at the front of the school is a sundial gnomon, casting a shadow on a student drop-off that is scored to tell the time. The walkway itself has a waving pattern of bubble skylights casting patterns on the pavement and culminating in the student store/clock tower, where a sky window casts light on the face of the tower.

stimulating



comfortable



energy efficient

environmentally responsive



safe & secure



Once a typical suburban school now a campus enlivened by students and their work.

Design Features

- Daylighting
- High efficiency lighting with motion and light level sensors
- High efficiency Heating, Ventilation, and Cooling
- Natural Ventilation
- Incorporates recycled materials
- Joint use of space (city and school will utilize the gym)
- Re-use of existing structures
- Community Involvement in design process



Student Benefits

- Daylighting has been proven to increase student learning (higher test scores)
- Better indoor air quality (increased health)

- Increased comfort

District Benefits

- Higher Test scores
- Increased Average Daily Attendance
- Reduced operating costs
- Increased teacher satisfaction and retention
- Reduced liability exposure (better indoor air quality and environmental quality)



teaching tool



The Blach School project is one of three CHPS Pilot Schools that PG&E is supporting. Blach was selected for in-depth design support and post-construction analysis under a pilot program promoting an integrated approach to design.

community resource



Owner

Los Altos School District

Architect of Record

Gelfand RNP Architects

Location

Los Altos, California

Project Completed

September 2002

Building Area

School: 75,000 sf

Gymnasium: 10,500 sf



**Pacific Gas and
Electric Company™**