

# New Elkhorn Elementary School

## ***ARCHITECTUAL DESCRIPTION***

An adaptation of Manchester, Spring Ridge and Fire Ridge Elementary prototype, West Dodge Station Elementary reinforces the successful educational design concept while strengthening the schools security and expanding its program to include an Early Childhood Center. Moving the administration to the exterior of the building and the addition of the Early Childhood Center creates a secure entry court for students and the public with sole access into the school during school hours through the administration suite.

West Dodge Station employs a completely accessible “house” design that groups students by appropriate grade level (Pre-K, K-1, 2-3, and 4-5). These classrooms houses are arranged in a stair-step pattern designed to maximize natural light and views to the exterior. Adjoining grade levels are linked with three multi-purpose spaces – areas that promote a relaxed, community atmosphere and provide students with a more informal learning environment.

The media center and computer room functions occur in the center portion of the building – true hubs of group learning and specialized multi-class activities. Dedicated area for art, special education and music facilitate unique opportunities to all students. The adjoining commons and gymnasium areas provide large volume spaces designed to offer maximum flexibility for a variety of activities – cafeteria use, physical education classes, after-school opportunities and community functions. The large operable partition wall that separates commons and gymnasium enables simultaneous activities to occur.

Continuing the district’s commitment to an environmental-friendly facility, the building employs numerous state-of-the-art energy conservation systems, including a geothermal ground-source heat pump system.