

# W. B. Wicker Elementary

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Overview of a journey to create an  
A+ STEAM school



# March 23, 201 A+ Schools Program



- NC Arts Council hosted informational meeting in Raleigh, NC
- 57 schools (OK, AR, LA, & NC) + Africa & Switzerland
- Expose and educate all children in all of the art forms: visual arts, dance, drama, music, and creative writing.
- Collaborative and creative environments that support and enhance each child's unique way of learning and provide a rich variety of opportunities for reaching mastery
- Teachers work together to integrate the arts, sciences, literacy, math & humanities into creative meaningful lessons
- Hands-on, real world application of learning objectives that connect across disciplines to help students realize connections among subjects and ideas, ultimately better preparing them for their future in the 21<sup>st</sup> century



# September 6, 2017 Wake Co. School Visits

- Envision Science Academy
  - Opened 2014
  - K-8 Public, Charter STEAM school (tuition free)
  - Enrollment 390-class size max 20
  - 2017 Golden Gear Award for STEM school of the year by the Research Triangle Park
  - Class environment set by teacher
  - Collaborative planning for subject, grade level, and vertical alignment
  - Project Based Learning/Flipped classrooms/Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) & Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)/Staff summer planning
  - Use data & student inventories/interests to form learning groups at least bi-weekly to promote student growth
  - Partnerships for Excellence with community
  - Reading, Math & Science proficiency scores at or above state average





# September 6, 2017 Wake Co. School Visits

- Douglas Magnet Elementary
  - Creative Arts and Science Magnet Elementary
  - Pre K-5, Title I, public school
  - Enrollment 700-average class size 22-24
  - 2016 Top Magnet School by Magnet Schools of America
  - One of 55 schools in the nation awarded national certification for meeting the 5 Pillars of Excellence of high quality programming
  - Collaborative planning for subject, grade level, and vertical alignment
  - Performance based learning
  - Partnerships for Excellence with community (Artist in Residence each year)
  - Proficiency scores at /above state average (levels 3 & 4)

<https://www.wcpss.net/douglases>





# October 4 & 11, 2017      Design Meetings

- Experts in the fields of curriculum, transportation, security, and STEAM education
- Current LCS staff representative of the Arts, Media, Curriculum & Instruction, Child Nutrition, Exceptional Children, and Technology
- Observations from school visits resulted in plan revisions that were incorporated into design
- Input/suggestions from staff, as listed above, were evaluated and incorporated into the design as applicable
- Architect Jimmy Hite



# November 6, 2017

- Hite Associates is the architectural firm chosen to redesign the W. B. Wicker facility for Lee County Schools.
  - Hite Associates believes that “a school should also reflect good stewardship of the public trust. To us, it means strict adherence to a design philosophy that manifests itself as a set of principles that go beyond the creation of great spaces to learn and teach.”
  - Hite Associates employs “the Unitary Systems Approach, or “USA”, developed as a school prototype *system*, not simply a set of plans, that is unique in its ability to save both initial construction costs and long term operational and maintenance costs.”
- It is my privilege to be a part of this project and to be here as we see the culmination of the collaboration and vision contributing to the beautiful, and functional, design created for LCS.
- Now to Mr. Jimmy Hite.



<http://www.hiteassoc.com/about.htm>