

SPRING 2023

# LEARNING BY DESIGN

THE PREMIER SOURCE FOR EDUCATION DESIGN INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

## Educational Facilities Design Awards

Upper Merion Area High School, King of Prussia, PA  
Photo: Halkin Mason Photography





HIGH SCHOOL | NEW CONSTRUCTION/ADDITION |  
ENTIRE SCHOOL/CAMPUS BUILDING

## Upper Merion Area High School

King of Prussia, PA

The Upper Merion Area High School was designed to provide career and higher-level learning spaces. The new high school will provide enriching opportunities for student acceleration to take advantage of higher-level courses at the secondary level. The organization of the building design allows the flexibility to move away from the traditional configuration and to be more centered around student aptitude and career interests.

To promote self-motivated learning, socialization, and collaboration, at the heart of the facility is the student commons which will be used throughout the day for multiple activities. After hours, the commons space will provide supporting spaces for the athletic and performing arts complexes. The performing arts complex provides a complete 650-seat theater with a balcony and all supporting performing arts spaces.

A three-story academic wing supports the core academic programs with a STEAM-based center, multiple project and team-based spaces, and a three-story learning stair. The learning stair connects the academic building vertically and visual transparency between the teaming spaces and classrooms further promotes the cross-pollination of learning activities.

### SCHRADERGROUP architecture LLC

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### DESIGN TEAM

Snyder Hoffman Associates, MEP Engineer  
Renew Design Group, Site/Civil/Landscape Engineer  
William H. Lane Incorporated, Construction Manager  
Wallover Architects, Inc., Aquatic Design Consultant

### OWNER/CLIENT

Upper Merion Area School District  
King of Prussia, PA  
Dr. John Toleno, EdD, Superintendent

### KEY STATS

Grades Served: 9–12  
Capacity of Students/Occupants: 1,500  
Size of Site: 59 acres  
Gross Area of Bldg./Space: 345,000 gsf  
Space per Student: 230 sq. ft.  
Cost per Student: \$92,000  
Square Foot Cost: \$298  
Project Cost: \$138,000,000  
Occupation Date: 8/1/2022

PHOTOGRAPHY: HALKIN MASON PHOTOGRAPHY

