

Big Sky Acoustics



PROJECT: CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Helena, MT

After seismic concerns closed Helena's beloved Central School in 2013, the community rallied to create something extraordinary. The new school blends historic charm with modern innovation—featuring preserved architectural elements like the original brass bell, granite wall caps, and main arch.

Designed around collaborative learning communities, the school fosters flexibility, connection, and shared experiences. With skilled acoustical design by **Big Sky Acoustics**, the facility meets ANSI S12.60 standards, ensuring exceptional sound quality, privacy, and noise control.

Innovative Acoustically Designed Spaces:

- **Classrooms and Shared Spaces** for traditional, Montessori and collaborative learning - acoustically balanced with sound absorbing ceiling tiles.
- **Commons/Cafeteria** - with circular acoustic ceiling clouds, to control the reverberation in the multi-use space.
- **Gymnasium** - with an acoustic deck and wall panels, for noise control and speech intelligibility.
- **Music Room** - with an acoustic operable partition that opens to the gym as a Stage, and absorptive and diffuse acoustic ceiling tiles.
- **Library** - with Tectum® acoustic panels on the metal deck.
- **Resource, Sensory and Speech Rooms** - with quieting wall and ceiling assemblies and HVAC noise control.
- **Office and Conference Spaces** - with wall and ceiling constructions built for privacy and sound isolation.

Central Elementary School strives to provide a high quality education in a safe and respectful learning environment. The new school once again anchors the neighborhood and empowers Helena's 21st-century learners.