

September 7, 1960.

TO THE STUDENTS OF THE WHITE PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL:

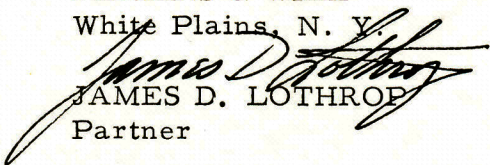
You, the first students to use the facilities of the new high school, are in a position to realize the advantages of an exciting new educational program in a building which has been carefully designed for its implementation. Your opportunities for learning will be limited only by your own desires. You are indeed fortunate that you live in a community where your parents believe you are important as individuals. They have provided you with this facility, but it will be up to you and your teachers to fully exploit its educational possibilities.

We, as architects, have attempted to create an atmosphere capable of retaining the advantages of a varied program inherent in a large school and, at the same time, to capture a quiet and intimate feeling throughout its many facilities. This thinking led to the design of individual units which implement and complement each other to achieve the overall scope that has been given to the program of this school. Functions have been grouped to allow for the individual development of ideas, just as the buildings are individual; but yet, their design is integrated as part of an overall concept, just as you will come to feel a part of a great campus of education.

As you begin to use all the facilities of your new high school, we believe you will find your school day becoming more exciting and rewarding. It is our hope, as architects, that our design will help you and your teachers realize the full potential of this new building and the educational program it represents.

Very truly yours,

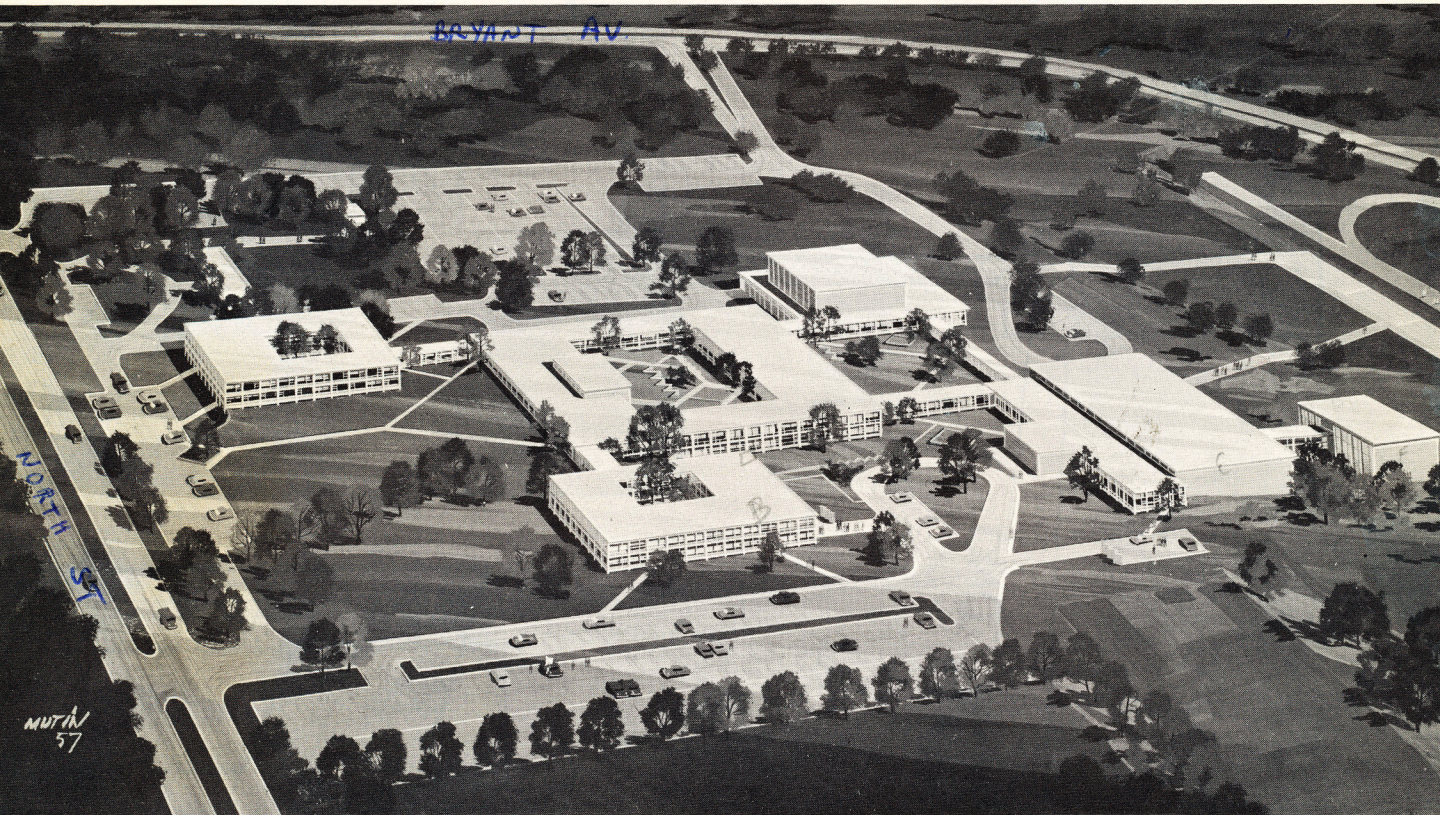
PERKINS & WILL
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WHITE PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL

WHITE PLAINS

NEW YORK



**HOW THE BUILDING PLAN WILL
STRENGTHEN THE EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAM FOR EVERY STUDENT**

"A MEANS TO THE END OF BRINGING OUT"

This fall, and for years to come, White Plains High School will be able to provide a better educational opportunity to every girl and boy — thanks to its new buildings and the planning that went into them.

New buildings do not, in themselves, make a good school — but when structures and facilities are "planned around a program" they help to make a good school better. They tend to reduce waste and add efficiency, making possible the best use of each teacher's time and ability.

The Plan and the Program

At first glance, the layout of the new school may look complex. Instead of a solid block or "mass", there are six interconnected buildings: a central unit (C) and five satellite units. The North Unit (A) and the South Unit (B) are the basic classroom areas. Others are the Auditorium Building (D), the Gymnasium Building (E) and the Swimming Pool Building (F).

Why is this an efficient system to meet the individual need of each of the two thousand or more students at White Plains High School?

First, it will serve to combine big school resources with small school personal relationships between the staff and the students, and among the students themselves. Each floor of the North and South buildings will comprise a school division totaling around 500 students — assigned on a completely random basis upon entering school, and including proportionate numbers from each course of study and class year. In many basic activities each of the four divisions will be a school in itself. But in other areas of instruction — advanced science, for example — students from all divisions will come together in the central building for classes and laboratory work with top-level facilities. The main library, too, is located in the central building to serve all divisions. This division plan is not an experiment. It has been successfully used for four years in the former building to the extent that facilities permitted. Now, in buildings planned for it, new advantages benefiting every student will be realized.

Improved Personal Guidance and Supervision

The student body will be made up of four divisions. Each division will consist of 45 - 55 students headed by a teacher-counselor. Each teacher-counselor will devote a definite part of his time to guidance duties, and will be in personal contact with each student in his group during the entire three-year period the student attends senior high school.

Ten teacher-counselors and 16 to 18 other teachers make up the staff of each division, under a director who will handle most supervision problems within it. Of course, more general problems will be dealt with by the school principal and his staff.

Entering the school in one of these four divisions boys and girls will not be "lost in the mass". The basic classrooms for each division are grouped in close proximity to the division's own cafeteria-general purpose room (four in all) which will be headquarters for divisional activities, assemblies and organization. Each new incoming group of sophomores will be associated here with some juniors and seniors who already "know the ropes". Opportunities for participation here will stimulate student interest and foster maturity, and extend from the group level to the school as a whole.

Better Facilities for Instruction

In planning buildings, primary emphasis has been kept on the needs of classroom work — both for the average student and for the unusual student. Rooms for instruction will be ideally lighted, quiet, and of dimensions that make for the best class size for the subject. Study periods will be free from distraction in small, well supervised rooms, instead of in makeshift space.

Waste in instruction is often the result of obsolete equipment. Facilities for the use of motion pictures, other visual and sound equipment, modern shop and laboratory tools, and well stocked libraries all permit more effective use of teaching time. And teachers' salaries are, of course, the key factor in today's school costs.

The site and buildings of this school have been planned to meet future expansion needs. Adequate space has been provided for the outdoor activities that mean so much to the fitness and attitudes of students of high school age.

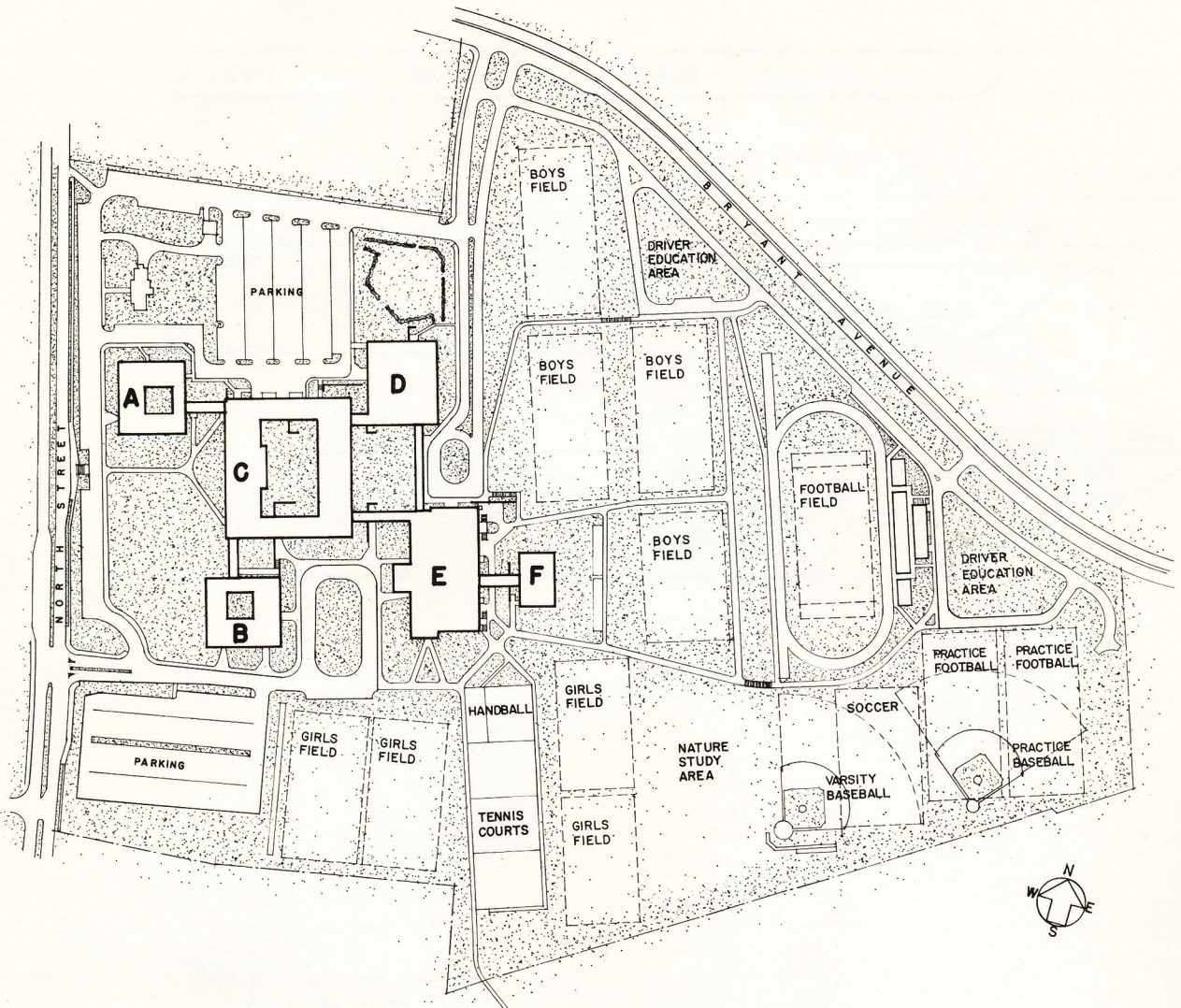
The Major Aim at White Plains High School

Inside this folder is a building plan which shows in more detail the key locations of classrooms and activity centers within the new school. You will notice that "form follows function" and every area is a working area with some educational goal in mind, from algebra to water safety.

Actually, the breadth and diversity of the new school plan reflects the broad and highly diverse aims and needs and abilities of the students to be educated here. These needs can no longer be met best by a single structure, by a mass form of organization or by a one-track teaching routine.

In this new school teachers will be able to give more attention to individual students than ever before. These buildings have been designed to help bring out the full potential of each student through the best possible use of staff, physical plant, parents and an interested community. This is the true measure of value of our new White Plains High School.

THE FULL POTENTIAL OF EACH STUDENT . . .



A These two buildings house academic classrooms. Each has two floors and partial basements with kitchens and storage rooms. Each of the two floors has ten classrooms and a multi-purpose room which will serve as a study hall, assembly room, group activity center and lunch room. Adjacent to this room is a food service area. About 500 sophomores, juniors and seniors heterogeneously grouped, comprising one of the four divisions of the high school, are housed on each floor. Each division has its own conference, guidance and special work rooms.

C This building contains facilities for the sciences, fine arts, industrial arts, business education, vocational education, and home economics, as well as the library and central administrative offices. Students will come from all academic divisions to use the specialized classroom facilities in accordance with their ability groupings and programs.

D This building includes music class and practice rooms, a band and orchestra room, a choral room, a stage shop, dressing room facilities and an auditorium. This auditorium will seat nearly 1,000, which has been found to be the largest number effective for assemblies in the high school.

E Contained in this building are the boys' gym, with folding bleachers accommodating about 1,500, and the girls' gym, each capable of being divided by folding partitions into four teaching stations. In addition, there is a corrective gym, where posture and other special problems can be cared for, two driver education rooms and two health education rooms. Locker rooms, showers, and offices related to the physical education program are also located in this building.

F This building houses the swimming pool, locker rooms and showers. It is so designed that it can be used by the community, without access to the rest of the buildings.

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