

Grand Terrace High School

Colton Joint Unified School District, San Bernardino County

School of the Month
February/March/April 2014



New Construction

State Funds:	\$52.1 million
Funding Approved:	Various
Funding Received:	June 2009



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When Colton Joint Unified School District (CJUSD) dedicated Grand Terrace High School (GTHS) in August 2012, it was an event many had looked forward to for decades.

The 96-classroom, 2,500-student-capacity campus is the district's third comprehensive high school and includes two-story classroom buildings, an aquatic center, stadium,

a designated student services building, and a performing arts theater. The new construction project was built using a combination of funds from two separate local bond measures and state funds.

The CJUSD is an approximately 23,500-student district in San Bernardino County that covers 48 square miles bisected by Interstate



10. It is primarily comprised of the cities of Colton and Grand Terrace and the unincorporated community of Bloomington, each of which has a distinct identity.

The district's other two comprehensive high schools, Colton and Bloomington high schools, opened in 1895 and 1962, respectively. Both the school district and the residents of Grand Terrace had long discussed building a comprehensive high school in Grand Terrace as a way to relieve crowding at the existing high schools and to provide Grand Terrace with a high school more geographically accessible to its families. Many

residents remember hearing plans discussed as far back as the 1970s.

Efforts to build GTHS included eminent domain proceedings for two separate sites, the first of which had to be abandoned in 2000 due to the discovery of earthquake faults.

After passage in 2001 of the first of two local school construction bonds, the district began a property search that eventually led to the school's current site. Acquired from multiple property owners, it was formerly used for purposes ranging from residences to a large industrial lumber mill. CJUSD broke ground in Spring 2009 and welcomed its first

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classes of freshmen, sophomores, and juniors in August 2012.

The district launched construction in two phases. The first was a "base campus," encompassing 250,000 square feet of building space, 96 classrooms, and capacity to seat 2,500 students. Its \$123.6 million cost combined local bond funds with state funds and capital facilities funds. In 2010, a second phase was added including the stadium, pool, and student services building, which was built for a cost of \$20 million from local bond funds, for a total project cost of \$143.6 million.

The campus also includes the following:

- Web-based energy management system to control heating, ventilation, and air conditioning and exterior lighting
- Outdoor amphitheater, and library/media center
- 500+ seat performing arts auditorium
- Music and choir rooms
- 176-seat lecture hall for staff seminars/training and student lectures
- 2,000-seat gym with 3 full-size basketball courts
- Gym building; including dance room, weight room, and wrestling room
- A football stadium/track with 4,200 total seating capacity
- Synthetic turf for football field and rubberized track
- Varsity/Junior Varsity baseball and softball fields
- Outdoor basketball and tennis courts



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The benefits to the district's other two high schools have been significant. Opening a third school, along with completion of new math and science building projects at both campuses, has allowed the district to eliminate a combined 89 portable classrooms as well as significantly reduce crowding to common areas such as cafeterias.



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