

# BLUESTEM MIDDLE SCHOOL



**ACI NEBRASKA**  
**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT**



**OMAHA** Nebraska

Bluestem Middle School is a 180,000-square-foot facility developed by Omaha Public Schools to address educational and community needs in a growing area. The project includes 278 precast panels covering 82,500 square feet of wall surface. Insulated sandwich panels with four inches of XPS insulation provide an R-value exceeding 20 for energy efficiency.

In addition to serving grades six through eight, the school offers public meeting spaces, athletic facilities, a library, mental health offices, and performing arts areas, all connected by a central common

The design optimizes the site's topography for access, pedestrian flow, and outdoor programming. The library, above the east entry, emphasizes reading, while the west entry provides direct access to the gym, track, and fields. The three-level academic wing on the north side minimizes the building's footprint and enhances efficiency. Separate bus and car traffic improve drop-off and pick-up flow.

Designed for 900 students, the academic wing includes shared learning spaces and efficient circulation to reduce travel time. The building maximizes natural light and offers exterior views in classrooms and common areas. Additionally, the facility features an ICC-500-rated storm shelter, designed to withstand 250 mph winds.



**OWNER:** Omaha Public Schools

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:** TD2 Engineering & Surveying

**ARCHITECT:** RDG Planning & Design

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:** McCarthy Building Companies

**CONCRETE CONTRACTOR:** Daedalus Construction

**PRECAST SUPPLIER:** Enterprise Precast Concrete

**CONCRETE SUPPLIER:** Ready Mixed Concrete Company