



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDY JACKSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JULY 16, 2018

The Architects were directed by Jackson County Schools Administration to study alternative proposals to provide physical facilities to accommodate a Pre-K – 5, Middle School, 6 – 8 and High School 9 – 12 Education Program for all school facilities except Blue Ridge School which is Pre-K – 12.

Previous Studies and Previous Construction

In the 1990s the School Administration studied a Middle School organization patterned on K = 5, 6 = 8, and 9 = 12 for the school system. A wide range of community comment was solicited. The community consensus was that the historic Jackson County K = 8 and 9 = 12 was to be maintained indefinitely.

Several school facilities expansion projects were put on hold until after the school organization decision was made and the Jackson County Board of Commissioners obtained funding through the State-sponsored Certificates of Participation Program (COPS) which allows long-range funding of facilities without passage of voter-based bond issues. Beginning in 1999, the following K – 8 schools constructed significant additions:

- Scotts Creek Elementary School new 500-student capacity 97,000 SF New Elementary School on a new site.
- Renovate existing Scotts Creek Elementary School into School of Alternatives.
- Blue Ridge School 12,000 SF High School addition.
- Smoky Mountain Elementary School 16,500 SF 6 − 8 classroom wing.
- Fairview Elementary School 15,700 SF 7 8 classroom wing.
- Smoky Mountain High School 17,900 workforce building 9 − 12.

Total area added 1999 – 2002 for K – 8 and 9 – 12 school system: 159,100 SF.

Having community consensus on a K – 8 and 9 – 12 organizational system, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and the Jackson County Board of Education committed to keeping the location of the High School at the 1959 location and upgrading and replacing obsolete portions of the facility. Significant additions and renovations were:

- 2002: 13,250 SF Kitchen/Cafeteria Addition.
- 2003: 12,930 SF Lobby/Administrative Addition/renovation.
- 2004: 21,500 SF Science Building Addition.
- 2014: 56,730 SF Gymnasium and Performing Arts Addition.

Total area added 2002 – 2014 for K – 8 and 9 – 12 School System: 104,410 SF.

Total area added system-wide 1999 – 2014: 159,100 SF + 104,410 SF = 263,510 SF.

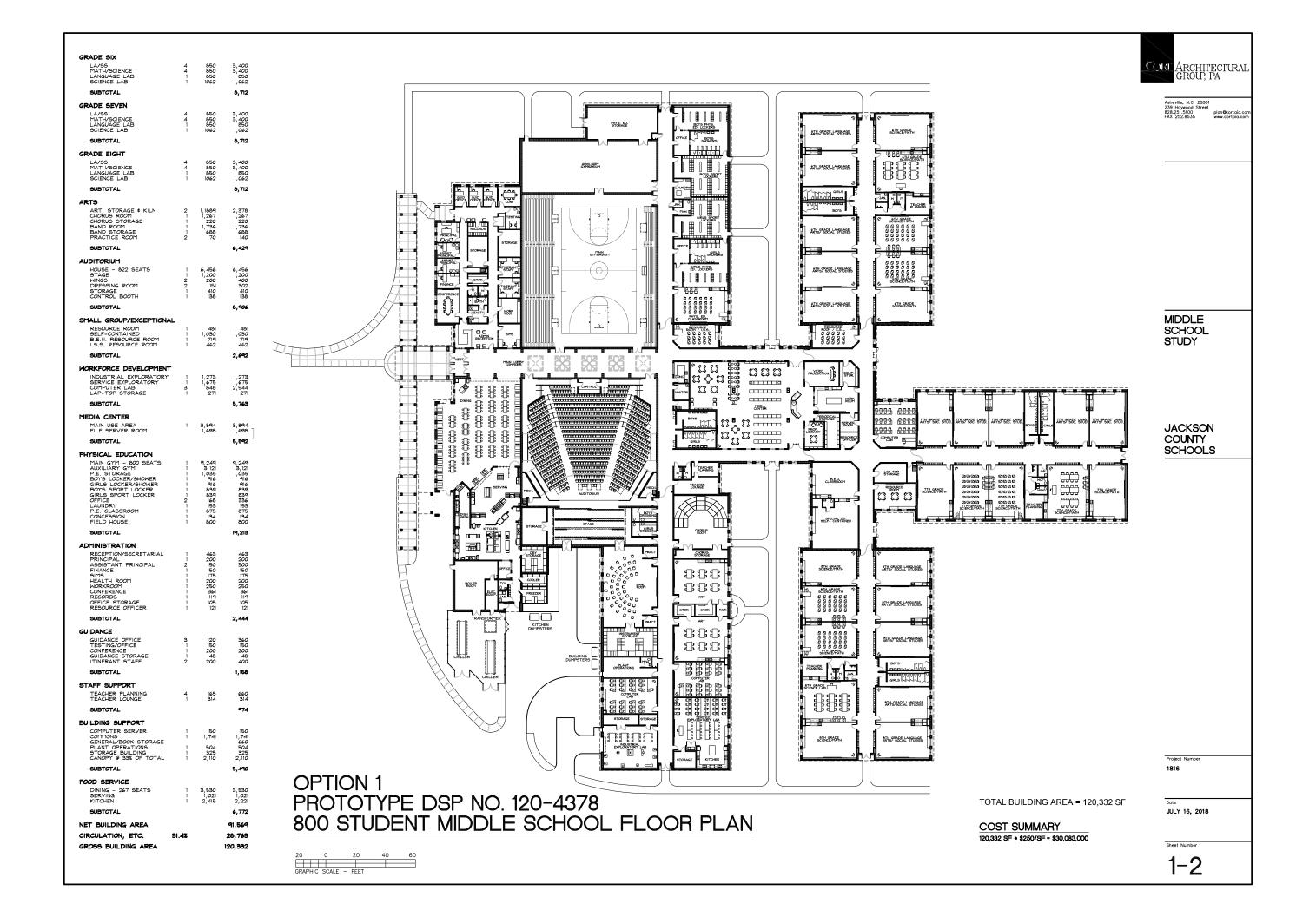
OPTIONS TO CHANGE JACKSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SYSTEM TO A MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

A Middle School provides physical facilities for grades 6, 7 and 8. The total Jackson County student enrollment for grades 6, 7 and 8 (excluding Blue Ridge School) is 731 students for school year 2018, 2019: consisting of 6th Grade – 266, 7th Grade – 215, 8th Grade – 250.

A student enrollment of 731 students can be accommodated in a single school facility. If the Middle School is located in proximity to Smoky Mountain High School bus transportation and also parent delivery and pick up issues are simplified if the same buses transport both Middle School students and High School students. All High School students in Jackson County (excluding Blue Ridge School and Southwest Community College Early College) also attend Smoky Mountain High School.

For an 800-student Middle School, a traditional Middle School program provides approximately nine (9) Core Curriculum classroom facilities, and one Science Laboratory in a home room wing for each grade. For specialty classrooms such as computers, special education, band, chorus, arts, Career Technical Education, physical education and Media Center, students travel from the home room wing to the specialty classrooms. This physical organization of classrooms allows for team teaching. Instructors sometimes remain the same for Grades 6, 7 and 8 (looping). This team-teaching delivery system is difficult to implement if core curriculum classrooms are not located in close proximity within the wing for each grade.

Attached is a Prototype Plan DSP No. 120-4378 for an 800-student Middle School with a gross building area of 120,332 SF on a 38-acre site.

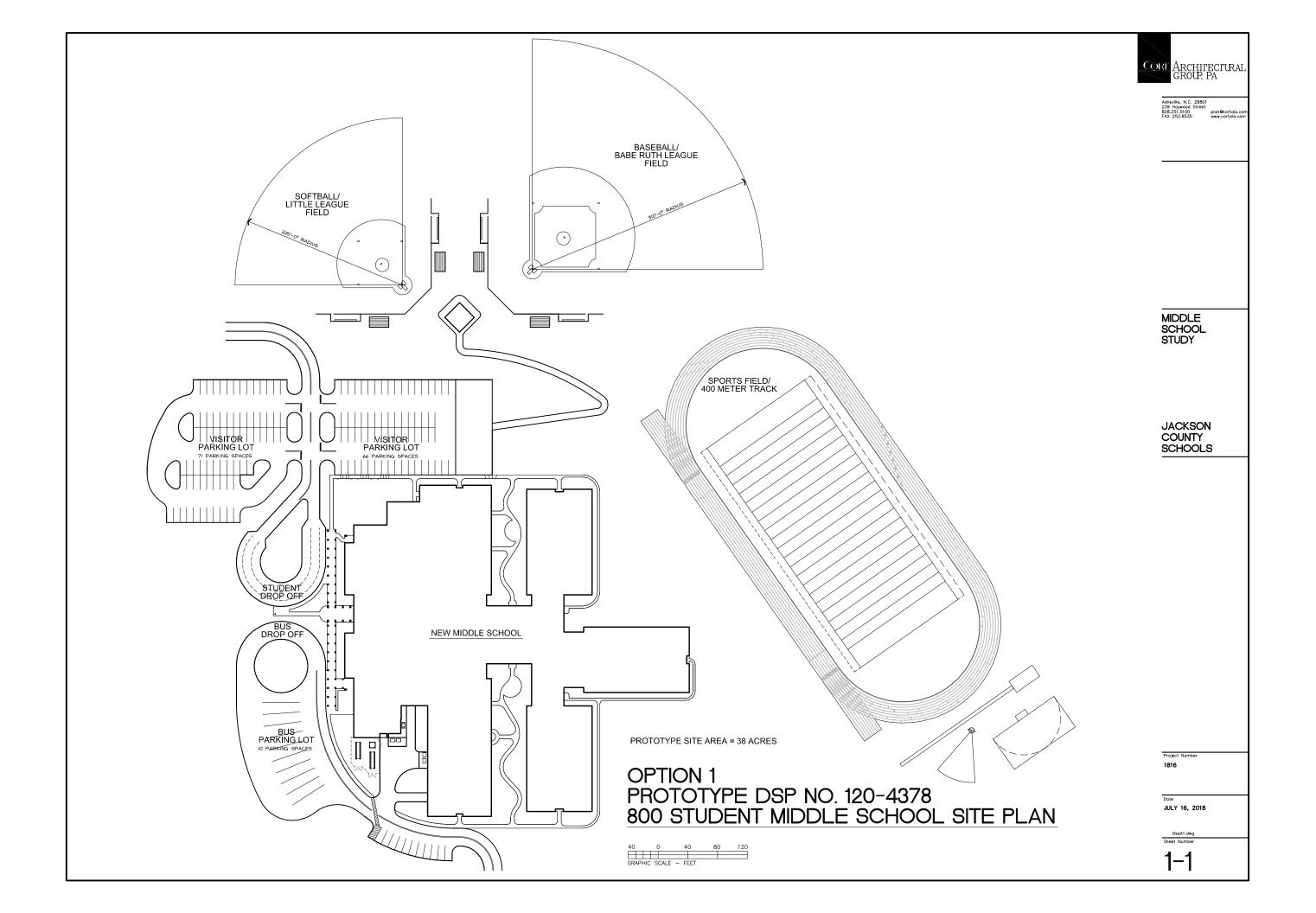


Site Development

A Middle School will likely have an athletic program which will compete with Middle Schools in adjacent counties for Grades 7 and 8. This requires the site be adequate to construct athletic fields for baseball, softball, track, football and soccer.

The Middle School will probably have joint school bus transportation shared with the High School, assuming school schedules are coordinated. This requires bus parking for up to 15 buses at the Middle School site. If the school dismissal is earlier at the Middle School and later at the High School, this will require bus parking for 13 to 15 buses which remain during the day at the Middle School.

Competitive sports will also include basketball, volleyball and wrestling which will require a spectator Gymnasium to seat the entire school (800) and sufficient parking for spectators. The Prototype Middle School example <u>attached</u> shows a 38-acre site with site development described above.



CRITICAL FACILITY NEEDS INVENTORY

During 2013, the Architects and Consulting Engineers visited eight Jackson County Public Schools Campuses. Interviews were conducted with each Principal, the Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Kimberly Elliott and the Maintenance Director, Mr. Joe Buchanan. A physical survey was conducted of each facility. Schematic Diagrams were prepared for each school. The student enrollment, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Capacity and total constructed area of school facilities, not including Modular Classrooms and Auxiliary Services Facilities was as follows:

Tab	School	Grade	Enrollment	NCDPI Capacity	Area
1	Smoky Mountain High School	9-12	867	1197	236,580 SF
2	Blue Ridge School	Pre-K-13	366	584	67,800 SF
3	Scotts Creek School	K-8	483	543	97,440 SF
4	School of Alternatives	5-12	76	307	34,840 SF
5	Cullowhee Valley Elementary School	K-8	590	791	99,030 SF
6	Smokey Mountain Elementary School	K-8	427	537	69,350 SF
7	Fairview Elementary School	K-8	828	912	105,410 SF
	SWCC Early College	9-12	145		0 SF
	Total Jackson County Public Schools K-12	K-12	3,782		710,450 SF

The area of Administrative Auxiliary Service Facilities is as follows:

8	Administration Building	9,884 SF
	School Bus Garage	5,920 SF
	Total Construction Area	726,254 SF

NC Department of Public Instruction School Capacity Worksheet for 2018 – 2019 is summarized as follows, and projected 2018 – 2019 enrollment is as follows:

 Scotts Creek Elementary School 		 Cullowee Valley Elementary School 	
Total capacity	543	Total capacity	791
Total students 2018 - 2019	478	Total students 2018 - 2019	594
 Blue Ridge School 		 Smoky Mountain Elementary School 	
Total capacity	584	Total capacity	537
Total students 2018 - 2019	330 (Pre-K – 13)	Total students 2018 - 2019	349
 Smoky Mountain High School 		 Fairview Elementary School 	
Total capacity	1197	Total capacity	912
Total students 2018 – 2019	862	Total students 2018 - 2019	808
 School of Alternatives 			
Total capacity	307		
Total students 2018 - 2019	77		

School Classroom Capacity as set forth in NCDPI Guidelines finds that no Jackson County Schools were theoretically over capacity. Principals at each school were interviewed and it was found that with the exception of Cullowee Valley Elementary School no schools are beyond capacity. Cullowee Valley Elementary School's principal stated that up to four classrooms could be justified for organizational reasons.

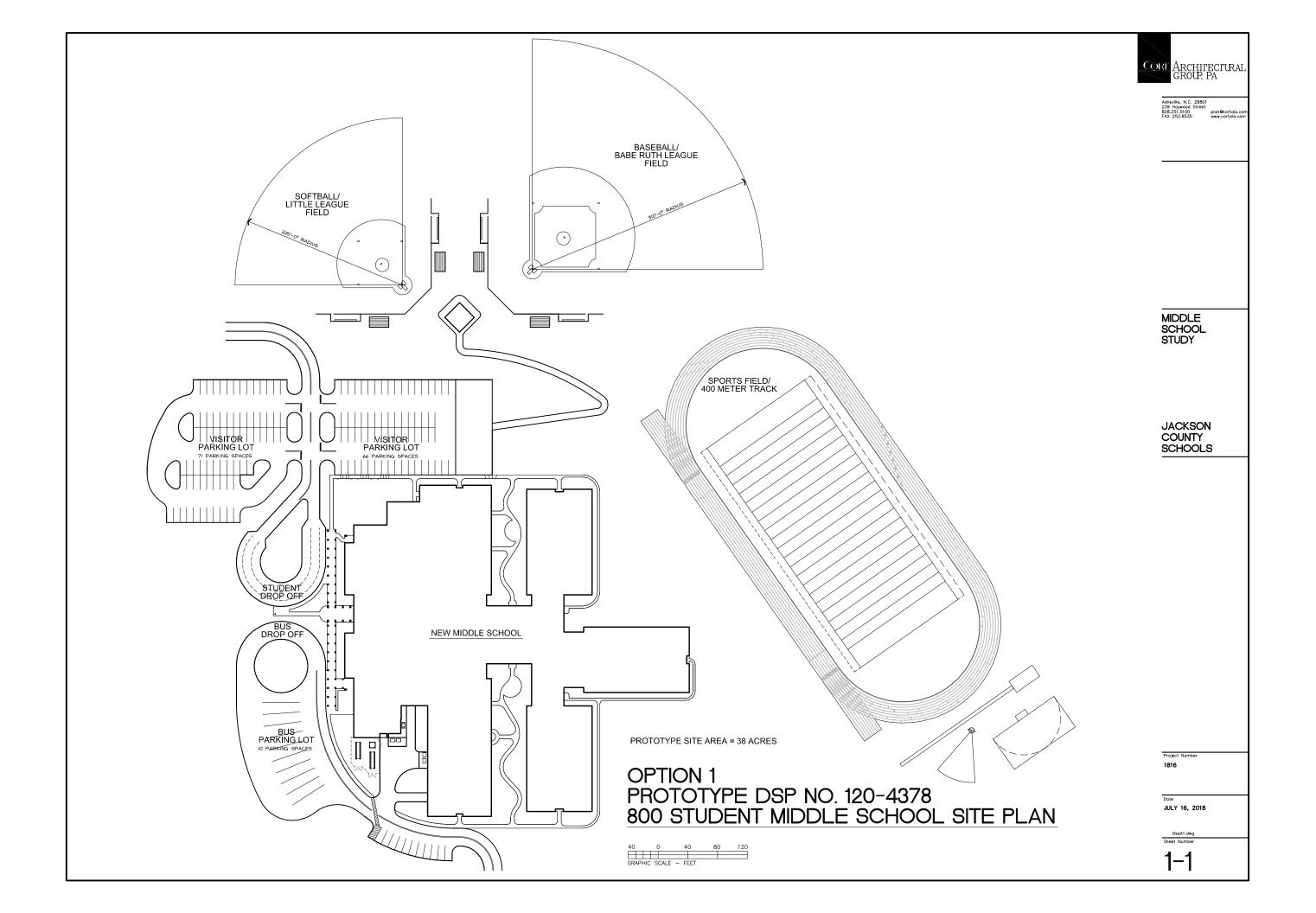
Middle School Prototype Facilities

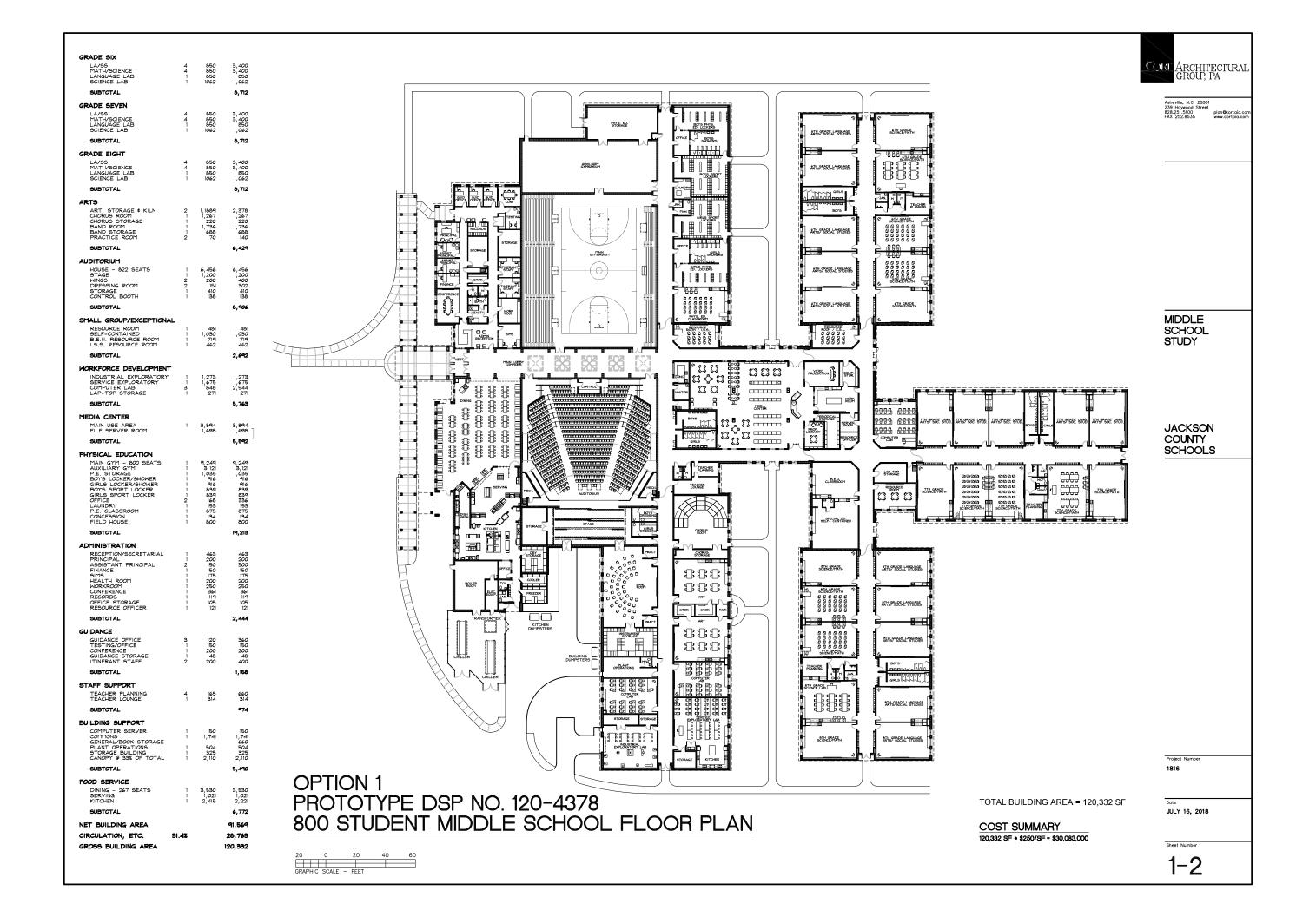
Jackson County Schools for 2018 - 2019 has a total Middle School enrollment of 732 students, Grades 6, 7 and 8. There are several options to accommodate Jackson County Middle School students, as follows:

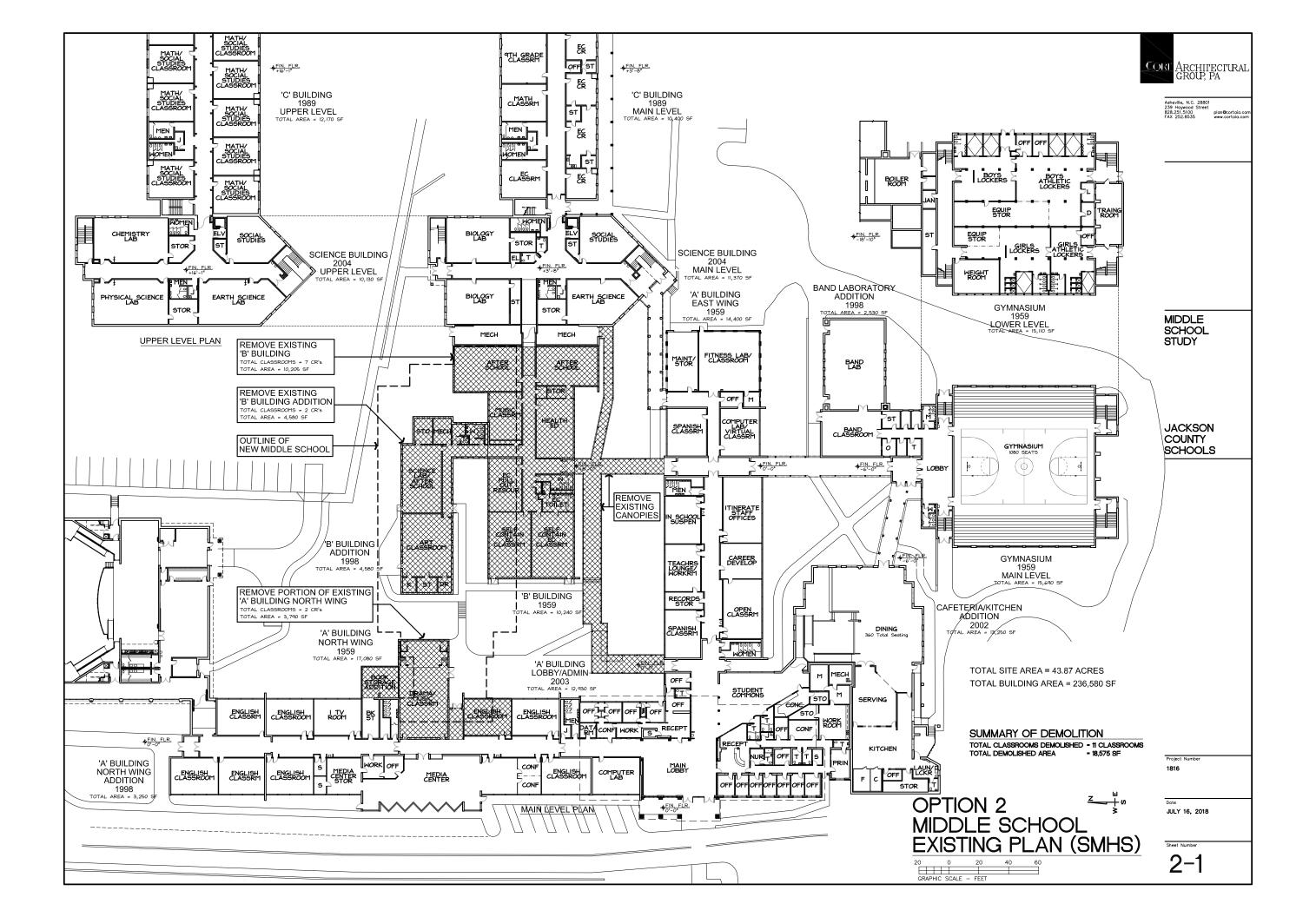
- Option 1: Construct a new Middle School for 800 students on a new site which would reduce student population at all Elementary Schools allowing for significant student capacity growth at all facilities.
- Option 2: Construct a new Middle School facility for 800 students at the existing High School. Smoky Mountain High School to become a combined High School/Middle School.
- Option 3: Construct a new High School for 1,000 students on a new site and convert the existing High School into a Middle School.
- Option 4: Renovate one existing elementary school to become an 800 student Middle School. Redistrict displaced elementary students to other elementary schools using classrooms vacated by Middle School students. Redistrict all remaining elementary schools.

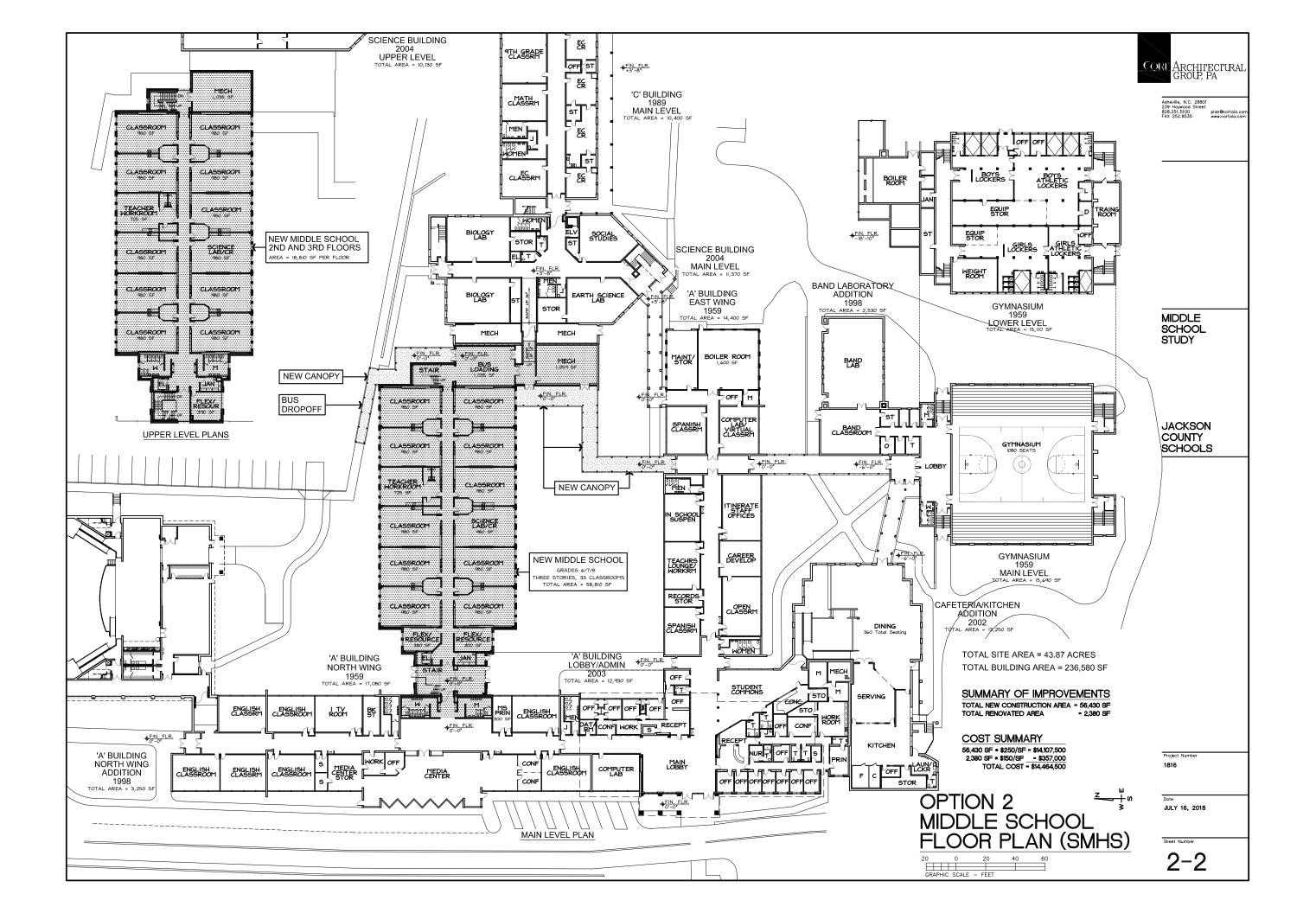
239 Haywood Street Asheville, NC 28801 P: (828) 251-5100 n@cortaia.com // www.cortaia.com

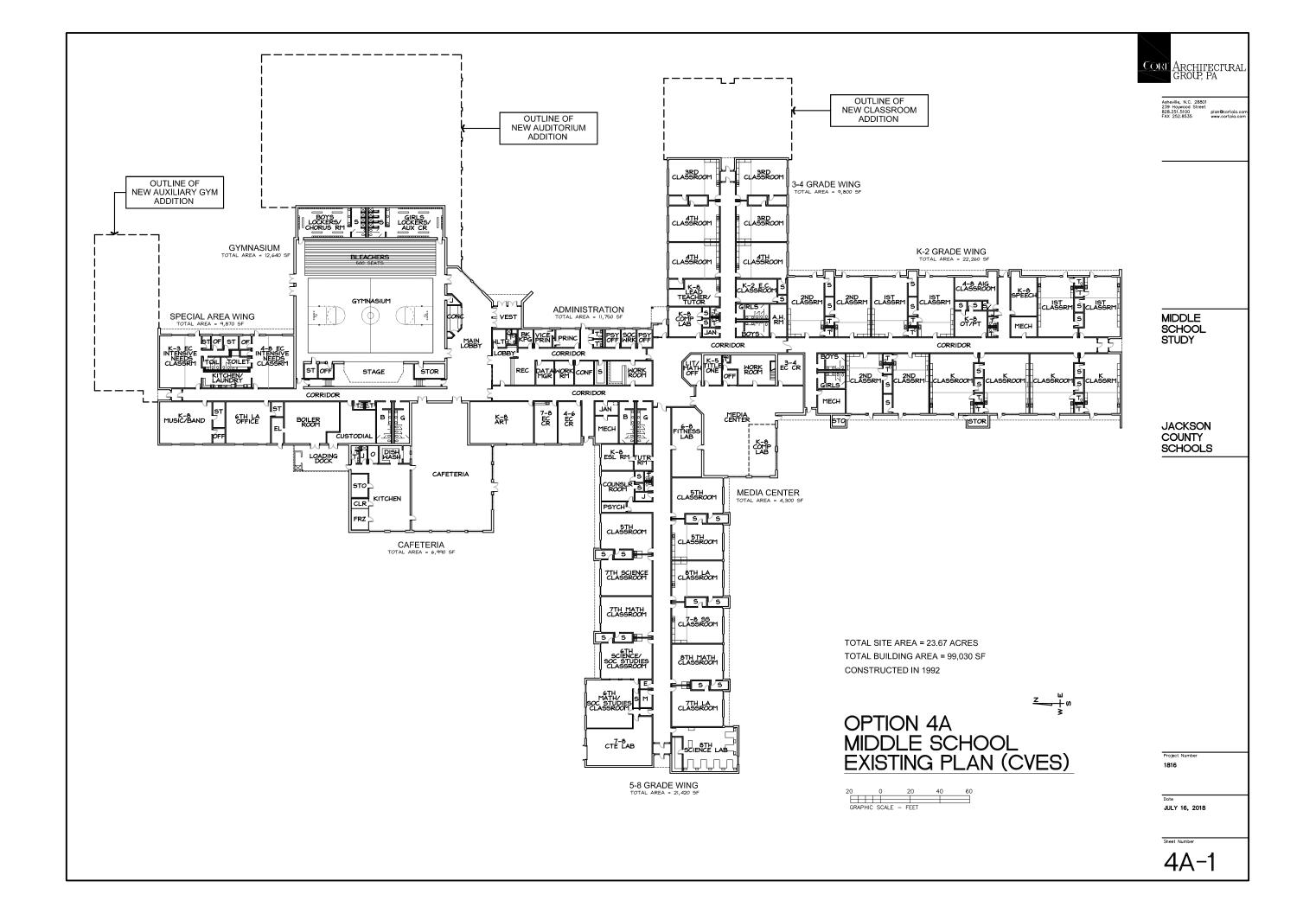
2173 Hawkins Street, Suite B Charlotte, NC 28203 P: (704) 661-6923

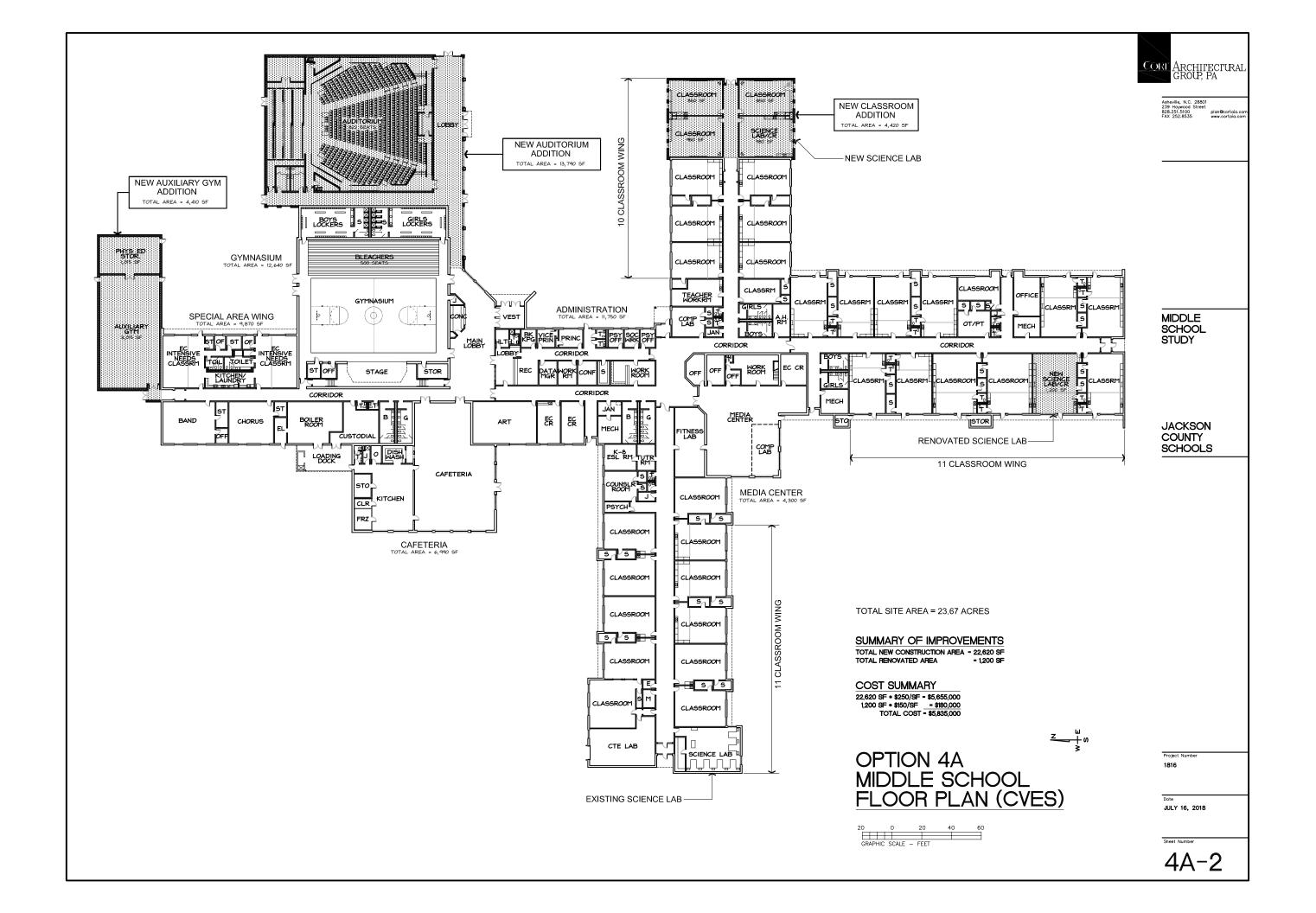


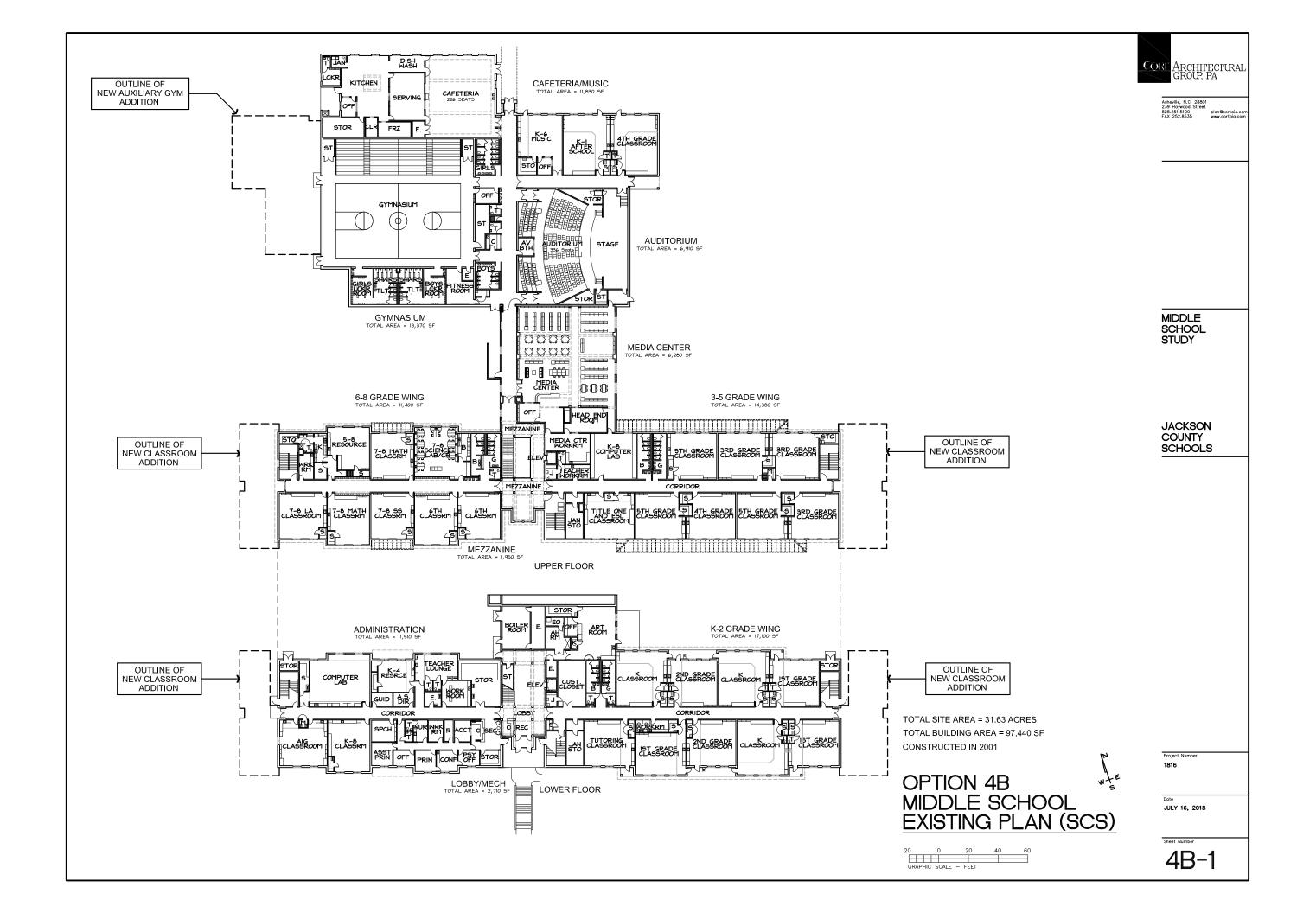


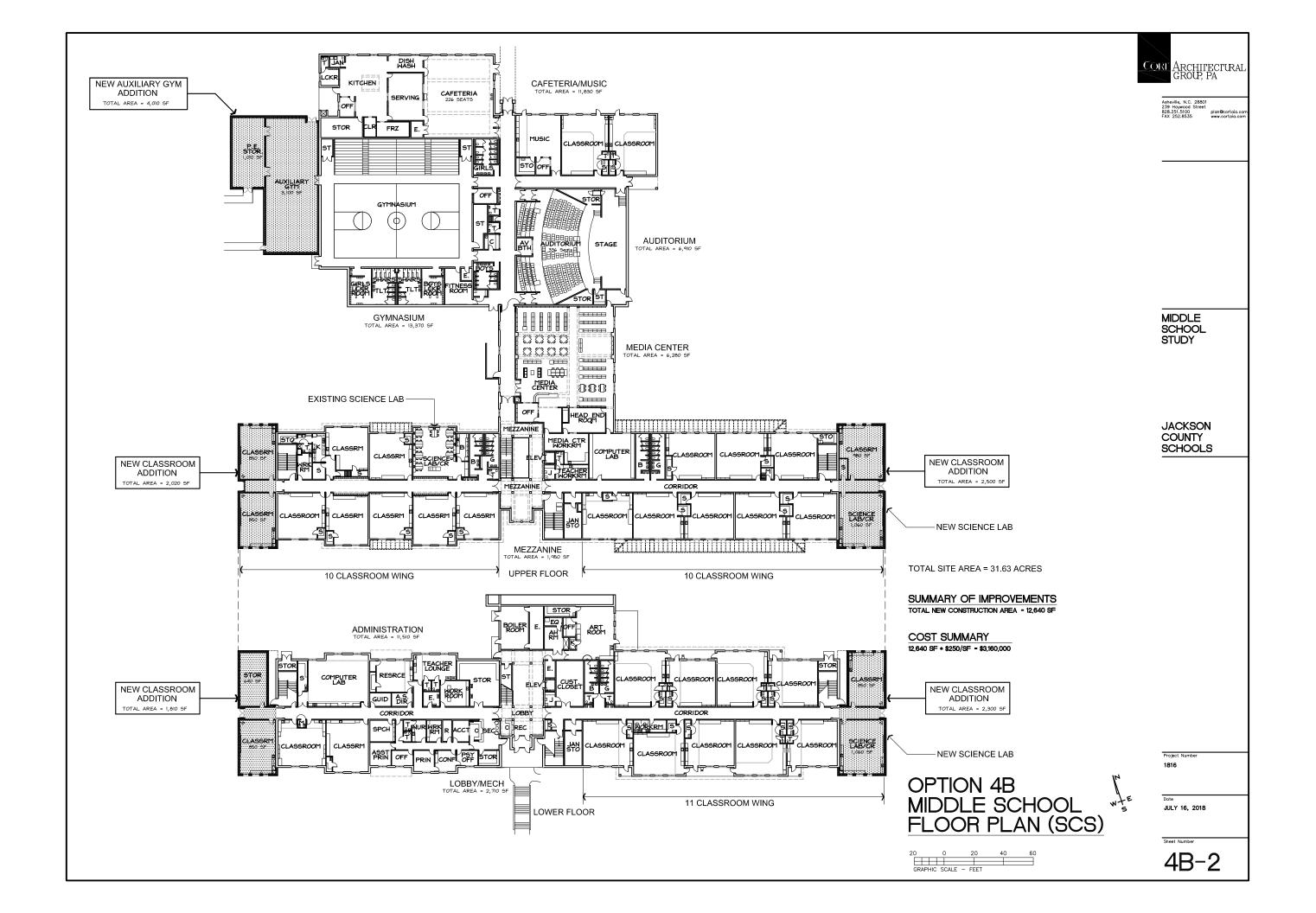


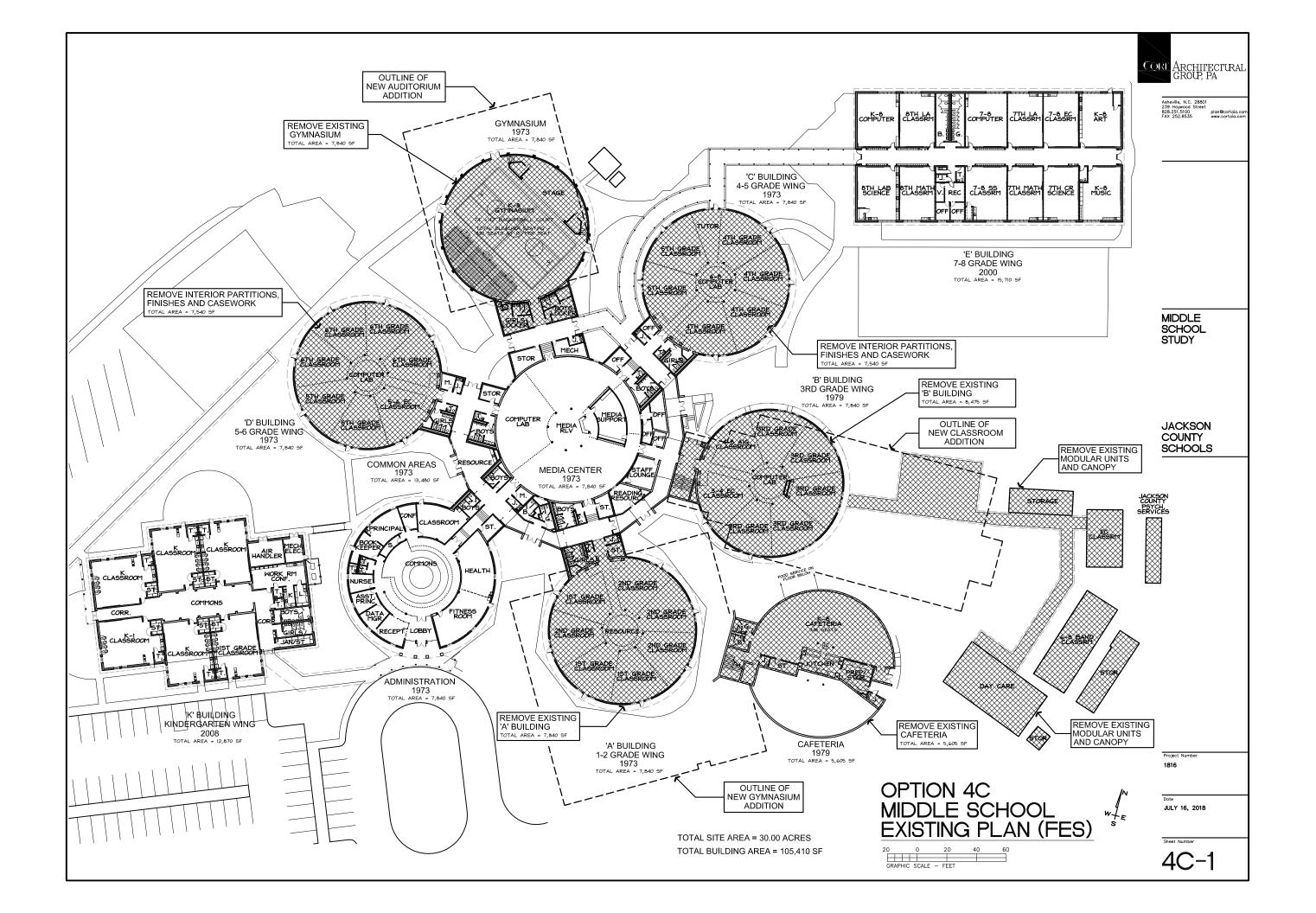


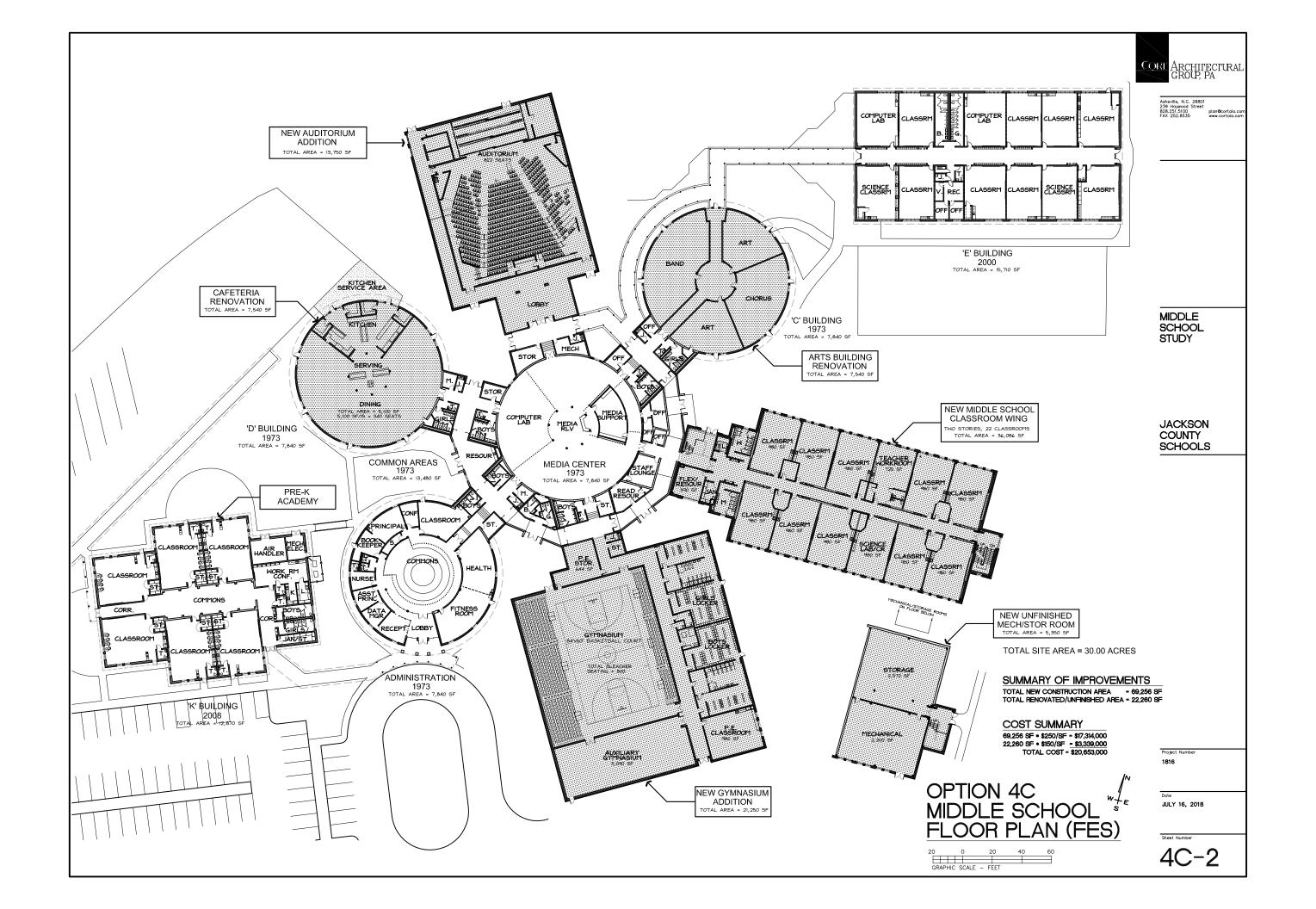


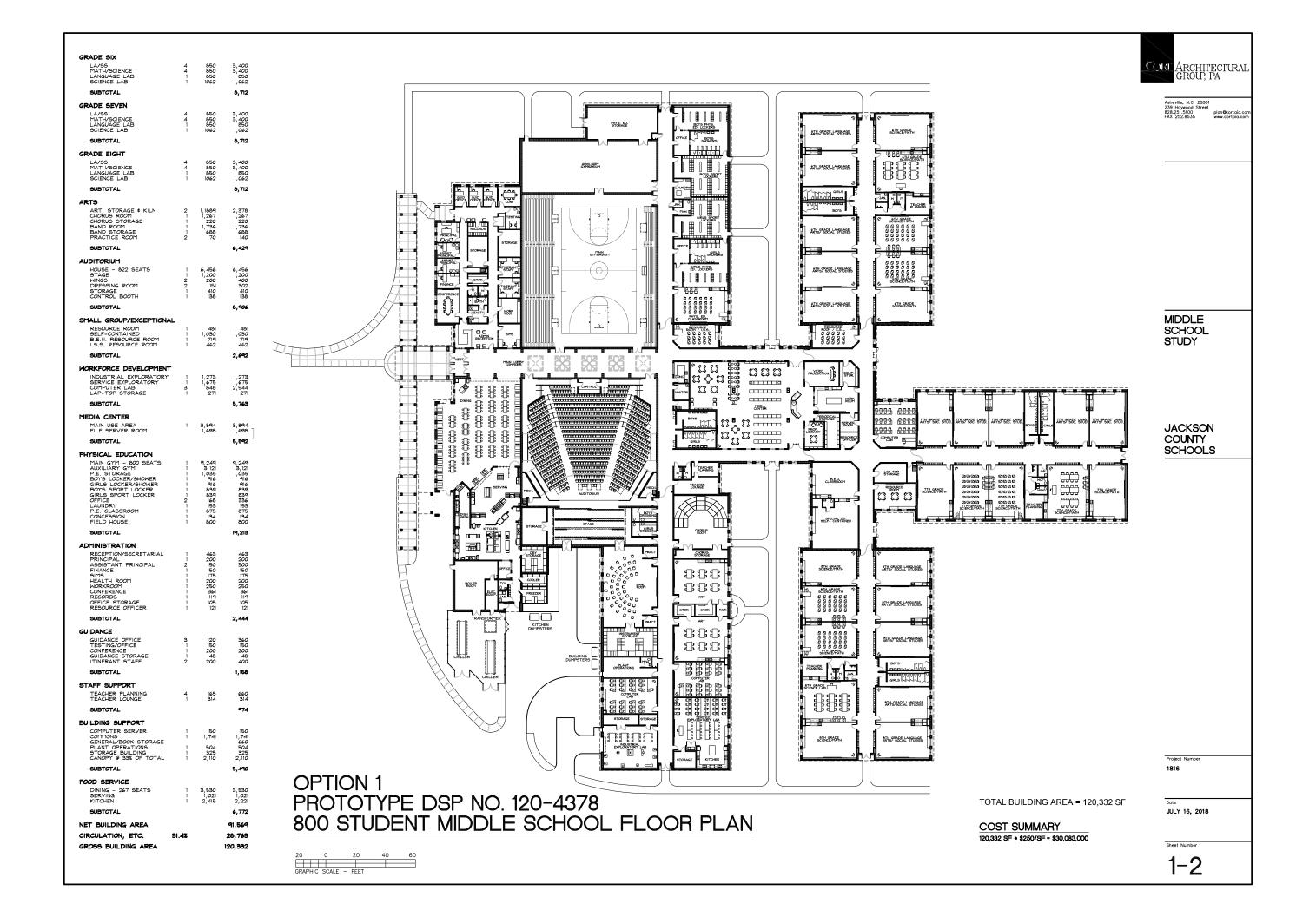












JACKSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS – MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDY COST SUMMARY JULY 12, 2018

	BUILDING				
OPTION	AREA (SF)	\$/SF	COST		SUMMARY
1 New Middle School	120,332	\$250		1	\$30,083,000
2 Smoky Mountain High School/Middle School					, ,
Classroom Wing Addition	56,430	\$250	\$14,107,500		
Classroom Wing Renovation	2,380	\$150	\$357,000	2	\$14,464,500
3 New High School	156,000	\$250		3	\$39,000,000
4A Middle School - Cullowee Valley Elementary School					
Auditorium Addition	13,790	\$250	\$3,447,500		
Auxiliary Gymnasium Addition	4,410	\$250	\$1,102,500		
Classroom Addition (4 Classrooms)	4,420	\$250	\$1,105,000		
Science Laboratory Renovation	1,200	\$150	\$180,000		
TOTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL				4A	\$5,835,000
4B Middle School - Scotts Creek Elementary School					
Auxiliary Gymnasium Addition	4,010	\$250	\$1,002,500		
Classroom Additions (8 Classrooms)	8,630	\$250	\$2,157,500		
TOTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL				4B	\$3,160,000
4C Middle School - Fairview Elementary School					
Classroom Addition	36,086	\$250	\$9,021,500		
Classroom Addition Mechanical Room	5,350	\$150	\$802,500		
Gymnasium Addition	20,650	\$250	\$5,162,500		
Gymnasium Renovation	600	\$150	\$90,000		
Auditorium Addition	12,520	\$250	\$3,130,000		
Auditorium Renovation	1,230	\$150	\$184,500		
Cafeteria Renovation	7,540	\$150	\$1,131,000		
Arts Building Renovation	7,540	\$150	\$1,131,000		
TOTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL				4C	\$20,653,000