



Jefferson Elementary School

3770 Utah St.
San Diego, CA 92104



Sub-district: D
Cluster: San Diego
Year School Opened: 1913
Grades: K-5

- ① Classroom Extension — New Two-story
- ② Joint Use Field & Playground Expansion
- ③ Front Entrance Upgrades

Opened in 1913 and rebuilt in 1961, Jefferson Elementary is located off of busy University Avenue in the heart of trendy North Park. The school was deemed by Forbes Magazine as one of America’s hippest neighborhoods. The school has an International Baccalaureate (IB) Programmes World School and a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math magnet school. The school is committed to developing internationally-minded students and fostering interest in STEAM career paths.

The compact 2.8-acre campus is situated in an ethnically, economically and socially diverse area, with housing that ranges from dense apartment complexes to historical homes. Jefferson’s campus includes six permanent buildings totaling approximately 46,000 square feet of learning and administrative space. A new 1.44-acre joint use field with the City of San Diego was installed on the campus and is up for renewal in 2022. In recent years, there has been a resurgence in the North Park area, which lead to interest in reinvigorating the school. The revitalized campus features colorful wall murals, sculptures and a literacy garden.



Jefferson ES Classroom Extension & Joint-use Field



Building exterior (note the seam between the original and extension)



Staircase access to second floor

Completed: September 2011

Funding: Proposition S

As part of a playground expansion project, two phases of new construction were completed at Jefferson Elementary. Phase one involved adding a new two-story classroom building extension to an existing two-story classroom building to house the students from the child development center that was demolished to expand the school's playground. The structure includes two 46-square-foot boys and girls bathrooms on the first and second floor and two 1,067-square-foot kindergarten classrooms.



One of two 1,067-square-foot kindergarten classrooms



Jefferson ES Classroom Extension & Joint-use Field



View of playgrounds and joint use field

Completed: December 2012
Funding: Proposition S

The second phase of the project was the installation of 1.44-acre synthetic turf field. This involved demolishing the previously existing child development center building, excavating the playground area, and constructing the synthetic turf field and play area. Located on the west side of campus, the field is a joint-use facility used by the Jefferson students during school hours and by the public after school hours and on weekends. The field is up for joint use renewal with the City in 2022.



Aerial



Ground level view



Jefferson ES Front Entrance



Completed: February 2014
Funding: Proposition S

Jefferson Elementary received a new secure front entrance that includes four new double gates and one single gate, a translucent panel shade structure and three-dimensional, stainless steel, and backlit lettering for the school site name. Approximately 225 feet of ornamental fencing was installed, adorned with 26 aluminum silhouettes of students "moving" toward the school's entrance. Additionally, some 1,750 square feet of new concrete was installed to create an American's with Disabilities Act accessible entrance, and approximately 2,000 square feet of new sod, drought-tolerant plants and new palm trees were placed around the entrance to beautify the area.



Front entrance gates, custom signage, and shade structure



Examples of custom student silhouettes



View of from Utah Street