



Kids Build!

Program Summary

Kids Build is a program initially developed by Svigals + Partners in conjunction with the New Haven School Construction Program, intended to educate school children about the design, construction and maintenance of their new schools through a creative engagement with fellow students and the design team.

Thus far, the Kids Build program has been realized at six public schools – the Edgewood Magnet School, L.W. Beecher School and Columbus Family Academy all located in New Haven, CT. Also at the Discovery Magnet School in Bridgeport, CT, Jonathan E. Reed School, Waterbury, CT and currently at the Sandy Hook School in Newtown, CT.

Creative Collaboration

Throughout the design and construction of each school, groups of students from various grade levels participate in a series of workshops that explore the design process. These workshops offer students of all grade levels the opportunity to *collaborate and tap their creativity* through hands-on activities. By allowing students to work together, who typically would not by virtue of being in different grades, barriers are broken down and creative potential can flourish - often mentorships between students are developed.

Students are involved in the design and ongoing maintenance, becoming stewards who can responsibly care for their schools and help younger students learn about these important values.





Currently, 35 students in grades 6-11, who will attend the new **Engineering & Science University Magnet School** in West Haven, are participating in Kids Build sessions. Students recently visited Svigals' office to learn more about the day in the life of an architect, here is what they had to say:

+ "After my visit to Svigals + Partners I was able to understand the amount of work that is going into building our new school. I am more aware of what the future of ESUMS is going to look like and it makes me proud to be part of the process. After my visit I was motivated to look into architecture as a possible career pursuit as it incorporates both arts and technology, two of my favorite subjects." N.R. Class of 2016



+ "I very much enjoyed the field trip to the architectural firm with the Kids Build Program. Not only did I learn personally what it takes to be an architect but I was very happy to be informed that you can incorporate both creativity and innovation by being an architect." V.K Class of 2016

+ New Haven Mayor John DeStefano, Jr: "Kids Build is an innovative way to introduce city students to meaningful careers in architecture and construction and also to teach them to be proud of their schools. The City's \$1.5 billion Citywide School Construction program presents a great opportunity for kids to learn more about how to care for assets like their own schools. Kudos to Svigals + Partners for their involvement."