



Rivanna Ridge Professional Building  
200 Hansen Road, Suite 2  
Charlottesville, VA 22911

# News Release

## For Immediate Release

December 1, 2023

### Contact

Gina Patterson, executive director  
434-295-8722 or [gina@vsba.org](mailto:gina@vsba.org)

### **Exhibition of School Architecture People's Choice Award Announced**

**Charlottesville, VA** – Grimm + Parker Architects has received the “People’s Choice Award” in the 2023 Virginia School Boards Association’s *Exhibition of School Architecture* for the firm’s work on Westmoreland High School in Westmoreland County Public Schools. This exhibition took place in conjunction with the Association’s Annual Convention held November 15-17, 2023.

“We are exceptionally proud of this recognition,” said Ralph Fallin, chair of the Westmoreland County School Board. “Westmoreland High School was designed to provide our students with a comprehensive interdisciplinary educational program and with the opportunity to experience a college-level environment. Key elements in our design included innovative and flexible educational spaces, collaboration areas, teacher resource and planning rooms, outdoor learning areas, abundant natural lighting, and safety and security. Another key feature was to include colors for wayfinding and a number of attractive and educational murals. The finished product is a testament to our great partnership with Grimm + Parker Architects and Branch Builds Construction Firm. The People’s Choice Award is affirmation of our persistence in designing a forward looking student-centered and community-focused facility.”

“Grimm + Parker Architects (G+P) is very proud and honored to have received this prestigious award,” said Jill Burcky, Grimm + Parker Architects. “Westmoreland High School provides the students and teachers of Westmoreland County a Next Generation Learning environment. G+P collaboratively worked with the community, Westmoreland County School Board, and members of the Westmoreland County Board of Supervisors. The vision and five guiding principles that were created are as follows: Celebrate the Community; Celebrate the Individual Student; Celebrate Learning; Celebrate the Collective; and Be Resourceful and Forward Looking.”

The Annual Convention brought over 800 school board members, superintendents, division administrators, education officials, and others together. Attendees were presented with 10 design projects and had the opportunity to vote for their favorite among them.

First Citizens Bank sponsored the *VSBA Exhibition of School Architecture*.

### **About the Virginia School Boards Association**

The Virginia School Boards Association, a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of Virginia school boards, promotes excellence in public education through advocacy, training, and services. The Association offers conferences, information, training, and counseling designed to meet the needs of the Commonwealth’s educational leaders.

###