

St. John's Elementary sits on a 12 acre site in the historic district on downtown Darlington. The site is abutted by Hwy 52 as it runs through downtown and by Park Street across the front of the campus; along the back the site drops off very quickly toward the Swift Creek. The site of the campus has been an educational institution since 1818 and fortunately two of the older classroom buildings have remained and been renovated and restored while still keeping much of the exterior architectural integrity in place.

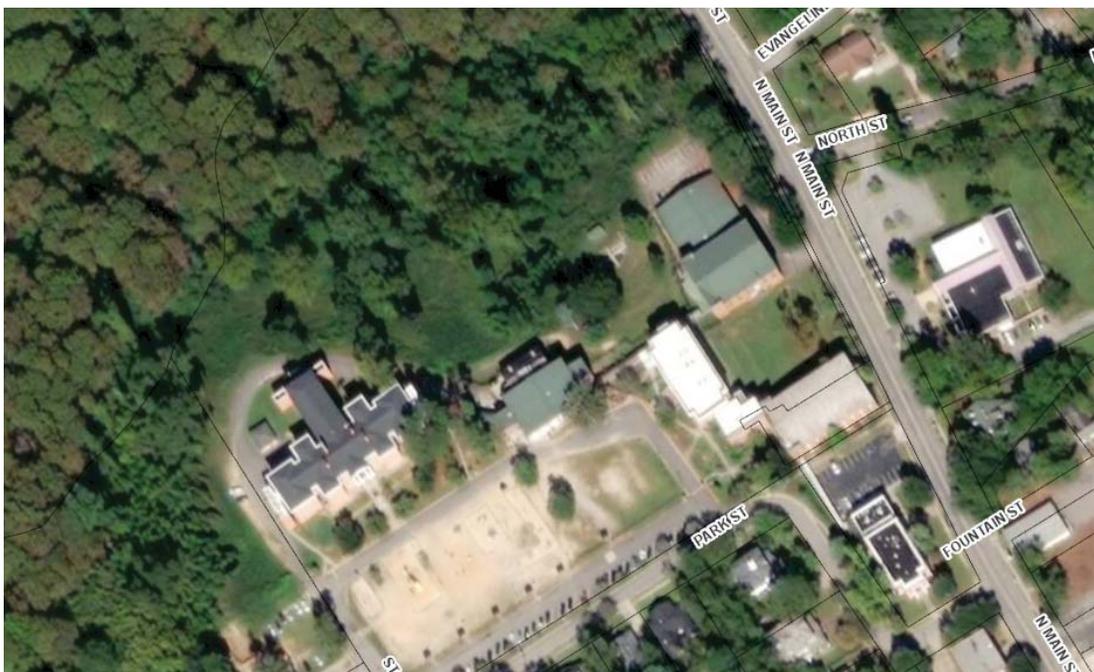
Access to the main entrance of the school is easily identifiable by a large set of monumental stairs that lead up to the main hall, unfortunately this sometimes makes it hard for disabled visitors to gain access although an elevator is available on the far left of the building.

Campus layouts like that at St. Johns Elementary School, create security issues as doors to all buildings typically must remain unlocked to allow access to students and staff. Traversing the campus in inclement weather is also problematic as rain, cold and wind are not only an inconvenience to students and staff but also add additional safety hazards. The above combined with some grade issues especially as relating to ADA, create inconveniences for students, staff, and visitors.

The ages of the buildings dictate varying compliance to a variety of building codes creating many noncompliant conditions as it relates to current codes.

Principal	Karen Kinloch
Grades	4K-5
Staff	58
Current Enrollment	625
Site Size	11.80 Acres
Square Footage	130,930
Year Constructed	1915, 1918, 1953
Renovations	Various

Athletic facilities include a gymnasium. Also of note is the auditorium which is in the three story classroom building.



St. John's Elementary School

General Overview	Good	Average	Poor	N/A
General Appearance		X		
Visual Security		X		
Landscaping		X		
Secure Entrance			X	
Access Control of Entrances			X	

Comments/Pictures:

- Open campus with multiple access points
- Visitors can bypass front office
- Architectural style of cafeteria building distracts from rest of campus

Site Review	Good	Average	Poor	N/A
Drainage			X	
Parent Drive			X	
Bus Drive			X	
Parking Staff/Visitors			X	
Sidewalks			X	
Handicap Access/Exterior			X	
Covered Entries/Awnings		X		
General Play Areas			X	
4K Play Areas			X	

Comments/Pictures:

- Site drainage needs to be addressed to address mold on brick
- Restriping of parking areas is recommended
- Traffic patterns are awkward for parent and bus drop off
- Have to cross the street to access play areas
- Sidewalks between buildings create accessibility issues for entry to buildings



Building Envelope	Good	Average	Poor	N/A
Roof System		X		
Exterior Brick			X	
Windows			X	
Exterior Doors/Hardware		X		

Comments/Pictures:

- Windows are not energy efficient and some are not operable
- Exterior doors need to be addressed for ADA and hardware issues
- Exterior brick needs tuck-pointing
- Paint and recaulking needed in areas

Building Interior	Good	Average	Poor	N/A
Apparent Leaks		X		
Ceiling		X		
Floors		X		
Interior Doors/Hardware			X	
Group Restrooms			X	
Staff Restrooms			X	
ADA Compliant Restrooms			X	

Comments/Pictures:

- Some doors are not rated
- Door clearances or hardware replacement needed to meet ADA compliance
- Restrooms and fixtures need to address ADA



St. John's Elementary School

Plumbing System	Good	Average	Poor	N/A
Adequate Pressure		X		
Backups		X		
Sprinkler Systems		X		

Comments/Pictures:

Mechanical Systems	Good	Average	Poor	N/A
Heating/Cooling Systems		X		
Air Quality		X		

Comments/Pictures:



Electrical Systems	Good	Average	Poor	N/A
Lighting Level		X		
Adequate Outlets			X	
P/A System		X		
Computer/Data Systems		X		
Camera Systems		X		
Emergency Lighting Systems		X		
Fire Alarm	X			

Comments/Pictures:

- GFI breakers at wet areas needed
- Some panels are older and need replacement
- Some wiring does not meet NEC



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Spatial Observations	Good	Average	Poor	N/A
Administration			X	
Guidance			X	
Media Center			X	
Kitchen		X		
Cafeteria		X		
Classrooms		X		
Gymnasium/PE			X	
Band Room				X
Music/Chorus			X	
Art Room			X	
Science Room/Labs			X	
Other Instructional Space			X	

Comments/Pictures:

- Offices and waiting areas are small
- Conference spaces are lacking
- Media center would benefit from additional natural lighting and higher ceilings
- Gym and support spaces are in need of renovations
- Art room needs additional sinks, more natural light, and possibly another classroom space
- There is no dedicated science classroom
- Access to music room is awkward and size is not adequate



Recommendations

Option 1: Relocate and Re-purpose

Because of the constraints on the site with regards to parent and bus drop off and the nature of this unique site, the architect believes that this campus is probably at maximum capacity and attempts to contain growth at this school should be made. In the long term it is recommended that a new school located between Darlington and Society Hill be constructed to house these two schools.

The historical nature of the buildings make it a valuable part of downtown Darlington and the district and can best be utilized in other functions. Any renovations will need additional signage be at key points directing visitors to appropriate ADA accessible pathways. In addition, all handrails and guardrails should be checked for appropriate heights and spacing between pickets. The existing cafeteria/third grade building could be demolished and replaced with a new more efficient building that would also create interior connections to the "B" building and possibly the "A" building depending on the nature of future use. This new building could be built to complement/imitate the architectural character of the "A" and "B" buildings. If this is not selected major renovations are recommended. Moisture intrusion issues especially on the ground floor of the "B" building should be addressed.

Some uses for this campus to be considered by the district include:

- Montessori School
- Magnet School
- Middle School
- Annex for DCIT to include culinary arts with a part time restaurant
- Apartments for teacher housing

